

September 5, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: AB 711 (Rendon) – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Rendon:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is opposing your AB 711 (Rendon), which would ban the use of lead ammunition statewide when taking any wildlife species with a firearm.

While the nationwide ban on the use of lead ammunition for waterfowl hunting is well established and proven to be successful, there is still insufficient scientific evidence that the recent California lead ban for big game hunting within the Condor range is, in fact, actually working. To date, we have not seen any published scientific data that shows measurable improvement in blood lead levels within condors in California. Similarly, it has not been proven that an additional lead ban is warranted for the hunting or taking of other species within other parts of the state.

Any such analysis or regulatory effort to further expand the current lead ban needs to take a science-based approach, and the State Legislative process is not the appropriate venue for that. Rather, this is an issue which should be considered by the F&G Commission after careful analysis of the relevant scientific studies and impacts to affected stakeholders, chiefly hunters.

CWA is also concerned about the costs and availability of non-lead ammunition for certain types of hunting. While AB 711 allows for a phase-in of its requirements, those issues would not necessarily be fully resolved prior to implementation.

If you have questions regarding our opposition, please do not hesitate to contact me or CWA's Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy, Mark Hennelly, at 916-648-1406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Carlson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Carlson, President
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, California State Senate
Members, California State Assembly
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California