



June 19, 2013

The Honorable Tom Ammiano, Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 108 (Yee) – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Ammiano:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to oppose SB 108 (Yee), which would require that all firearm(s) at a residence be secured with a firearm safety device while the person in lawful possession of the firearm(s) is away from the residence.

CWA opposes this measure because it would unreasonably increase hunters and other gun owners' criminal liability. In particular, SB 108 is overly broad by the open-ended manner in which it defines the term "residence", as well as by its application to the storage of unloaded firearms.

Please note that there are already significant penalties provided in the Penal Code for the "criminal storage of a firearm", which appropriately focuses on cases where someone keeps a loaded firearm on premises under his or her control and knows that a child is likely to gain access to it (Sections 25100 and 25110). In light of this existing law, we question whether it is necessary to create entirely new sections of the Penal Code to address this issue.

It should also be noted that most firearm owners already store their ammunition and firearms separately, and lock their homes while they are away to prevent them from being stolen or misused.

In addition, SB 108 is impractical. For example, should a firearm owner simply want to visit his neighbor or walk down his street for a short period of time, under the bill he would be required to first secure all of his firearms, including those which are already unloaded. In addition, those traveling on hunting or other sporting trips would now be effectively required to bring with them a firearm safety device(s) when visiting motels or even using motor homes.

For these reasons, please oppose SB 108 when it is considered before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Leland Yee, Senator, 8th District
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California

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