



March 20, 2024

The Honorable Aisha Wahab, Chair
Senate public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to SB 1160 (Portantino) – Annual Firearms Registration

Dear Senator Wahab:

California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges your opposition to SB 1160 (Portantino), which would require the annual registration with the California Department of Justice and payment of an unspecified fee for each firearm a person owns.

This misguided and unnecessary legislation would impose additional burdensome requirements and costs on legal gun owners, while doing little to nothing to enhance public safety.

Hunters and other legal gun owners already face a myriad of gun regulations that are rarely found in other states, including background checks on ammunition purchases, limitations on how many guns they may purchase each month, prohibitions on firearm and ammunition sales on state property, and arbitrary bans on firearm models that are labeled unsafe or as assault weapons. In addition, they incur significant firearm-related fees or other costs, including a new 11% excise tax beginning July 1 on the sale of all firearms and ammunition.

Many hunters and other gun owners have dozens of firearms that they have acquired throughout their life, whether by purchase, winning the firearm at a nonprofit conservation fundraiser or being handed down to them from other family members. SB 1160 would not only require them to register each gun every year, but also pay a fee each year for each gun.

SB 1160 will only serve as a further disincentive for people to participate in hunting and recreational shooting sports. In doing so, it will not only create new barriers to public participation in the outdoors, but also reduce funding streams for wildlife conservation, including less hunting license/stamp/tag and federal Pittman-Roberston revenues available for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

For these reasons, please oppose SB 1160 when it is heard by your committee.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Advocacy
California Waterfowl Association