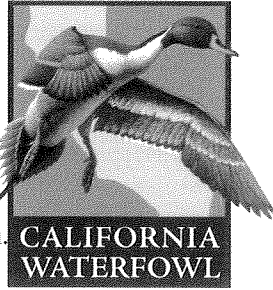


June 7, 2012

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Com.
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: SB 1166 (Berryhill) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Huffman:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) strongly urges you to support SB 1166 (Berryhill), which would 1) allow nonprofit conservation groups facilitating the sale of deer and wild sheep fundraising tags to retain 10% of the sale for administrative costs and 2) clarify that the primary purpose of the Big Game Management Account is for big game-related conservation projects.

SB 1166 would help nonprofit conservation groups which assist the Department of Fish and Game in selling special tags for deer and bighorn sheep recoup some of their administrative expenses. This practice is similarly allowed in other states and provides an important incentive for nonprofit conservation groups to auction or raffle tags on behalf of DFG at their own fundraising events.

In addition, SB 1166 would provide much-needed statutory clarity for how funds are to be prioritized from the Big Game Management Account into which deer, wild sheep and other big game tag revenues are currently deposited. Historically, big game tag revenues were used almost exclusively for conservation projects, but in recent years a much greater percentage has been used for administration and enforcement purposes. SB 1166 would clarify that the primary purposes of the tag revenues remains for habitat and other conservation projects, while still allowing for a portion of the revenues to be used for administration and enforcement. We also believe this is consistent with the intent of SB 1058 (Harman), which was signed into law in 2010 and created the Big Game Management Account.

For these reasons, please support this measure when it is considered before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hennelly", is written over a light-colored background.

Mark Hennelly, Vice President
Legislative Affairs and Public Policy

Cc: Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
The Honorable Tom Berryhill, Senator, 14th District