

September 13, 2013



The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 374 (Steinberg) – REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to veto SB 374 (Steinberg), which, amongst other requirements, would classify semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines as "assault weapons".

CWA opposes this measure because it would effectively ban the sale of certain rifles that have long been legal for hunting game mammals such as deer, bear and wild pigs, while also wrongly reclassifying such firearms as assault weapons.

Please note that the sporting rifles that would be banned or otherwise restricted under SB 374 share the same characteristics (e.g. semi-automatic, detachable magazine) as many other legal firearms. Not only are these sporting rifles used in relatively few crimes, but everyone who purchases them in California must first undergo a background check and a 10-day waiting period. In addition, if the purchasers are using them for hunting purposes they must first take and pass a 10-hour safety course, while also annually obtaining a hunting license from the state. In light of these existing requirements, we highly question the need for SB 374.

It should also be noted that there is an 11% excise tax placed on all sporting rifles via the federal Pittman-Robertson Act. That tax helps fund critically important wildlife habitat work on state wildlife areas, including those administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as hunter education activities. By banning the sale of a significant portion of these sporting arms, SB 374 would reduce that conservation funding stream.

For these reasons, please veto SB 374.

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:

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Senator, 6<sup>th</sup> District