

March 23, 2017

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Senate Bill 464 (Hill): Firearms Dealers: Storage and Security
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Senator Skinner,

The California Waterfowl Association regrets to oppose Senate Bill 464. The California Waterfowl Association is a statewide nonprofit organization whose principal objective is the conservation of the state's waterfowl, wetlands, and hunting heritage. California Waterfowl believes hunters have been the most important force in conserving waterfowl and wetlands.


Although California already has some of the strictest laws in the country regarding how dealers must store and secure firearms SB 464 would add a requirement that licensed firearms dealers must install concrete or steel barriers to prevent thieves from using vehicles to break into their facilities. This bill was apparently introduced as a reaction to a series of incidents last year in Rocklin, Folsom, and Elk Grove. The perpetrators of the break-ins in Rocklin were later apprehended in Oakland.

When one of the gun store owners in Rocklin put up a concrete barrier in front of his store, he was told by Rocklin city code enforcement officials to remove it. If this bill passes, gun store owners will have similar problems with landlords and city officials, who will complain that the barriers are not consistent with local codes.

California Waterfowl supports making California communities safer and keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals. California law already requires that firearms be secured on the gun store's business premises with a steel rod or cable or in a locked fireproof safe or vault. Gun store owners should be able to decide for themselves how to protect their inventory from thieves who use vehicles to break into their facilities. Allowed flexibility, they will be able to arrive at a protection method that meets the requirements of landlords and local ordinances.

California Waterfowl urges the Legislature to reject SB 464.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey A. Volberg
Legislative Advocate
California Waterfowl Association

CC: Members of Senate Public Safety Committee
Members of Senate Appropriations Committee