

June 11, 2013

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



RE: SB 683 (Block) – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Ammiano:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to oppose SB 683 (Block), which would require anyone purchasing or receiving a shotgun or rifle to obtain a firearms safety certificate, subject to a \$15 fee.

CWA opposes this measure for two main reasons. First, it is unnecessary to require that licensed hunters obtain the safety certificate provided under SB 683, since they are already required by law to take a safety course and obtain a separate safety certificate prior to receiving their hunting license. This hunting safety mandate is longstanding and consists of a comprehensive 10-hour course, including a requirement that students take and successfully pass a lengthy written test.

The \$15 fee requirement proposed by SB 683 is similarly unnecessary, and would only further add to the large number of other existing fees and taxes that hunters currently pay. This most notably includes the existing \$20-35 fee for a hunter safety certificate, but also the Dealers Record of Sale fee (\$15) on all firearm purchases, an 11% federal Pittman-Robertson tax on the purchase of all firearms and ammunition, and a hunting license fee (\$44.85) and associated tag/stamp fee (e.g. \$35 for state and federal Ducks Stamps).

Please also note that the bill is impractical in cases where firearms need to be temporarily loaned to others, particularly youth, for hunting or other recreational shooting purposes while participants are in the field or at a shooting range. In such cases, it would not likely be possible for someone to obtain a safety certificate in a timely manner.

SB 683 is duplicative of existing requirements and would further increase fees on licensed hunters. For these reasons, please oppose this bill when it is considered before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hennelly".

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

Cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
The Honorable Marty Block, Senator, 39th District
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California