

October 5, 2011

Mr. Jim Kellogg, President
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 94244-2090
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Proposed Fish Stocking Regulations

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

The California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) is the largest broad-based business advocate to government in California. Our membership represents one-quarter of the private sector jobs in California and includes firms of all sizes and companies from every industry within the state. Three-fourths of the CalChamber members are companies with 100 or fewer employees.

In reviewing the proposed fish stocking regulations, we are very concerned that aqua culturists or fish farmers as well as some private property owners and recreational lake owners will be unable to comply. The draft regulations are overly stringent and costly to implement on an ongoing basis. It is the CalChamber's view that these new rules will push some fish farmers and recreational property owners to the edge causing them to close down. The trickle-down effect will be small Main Street businesses in more rural areas of the state will go under.

Recreational fishing is popular luring many tourists and sport fisherman to California. Tourism accounts for nearly \$90 billion annually in revenues for California. The sport fishing industry is about a \$4.9 billion per year, about 19% of the tourism dollars. The dollars generated help keep the fragile economy of the state moving. Now isn't the time to adopt regulations that slow growth or cause the loss of any jobs especially regulations that haven't been thoroughly vetted through the public process. There wasn't an economic analysis provided in the Environmental Impact Report nor was sufficient time allowed for public comment.

It is for these reasons that the CalChamber asks the Fish and Game Commission to reject the proposed stocking regulations.

Sincerely,



Valerie Nera
Policy Advocate

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