



## CALIFORNIA

November 2, 2011

Mr. Jim Kellogg  
President  
California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

### **RE: Proposed Fish Stocking Regulations**

Dear Mr. Kellogg and Commissioners:

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) is the nation's leading and largest organization representing only small businesses throughout the country, including over 20,000 entrepreneurs in California. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB gives small and independent business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business.

As an organization devoted to promoting and protecting the right of our members to own, operate, and grow their businesses, we are very concerned with proposed fish stocking regulations that are scheduled to be heard at the December meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission.

We have been contacted by many of our members who are deeply concerned with the proposed regulations that would require an environmental assessment to be conducted on all bodies of water, both public and private, prior to stocking fish. This will have an adverse impact on the many jobs dependent on California's \$4.9 billion sport-fishing industry, particularly as many pond owners have stated that they will no longer stock fish. As fishermen are denied access to recreational fishing lakes, fewer dollars will be spent in communities dependent on recreational fishing and tourism. As a result, California jobs dependent on boating and outdoor retail sales, marinas, bait and tackle shops, gas stations, campgrounds, hotels and lodges, golf courses, restaurants, and markets are at great risk.

It is important to note that even if some few lake operators can withstand the extraordinary costs associated with these regulations, demand for stocked fish will certainly decline and most, if not all, family owned fish hatcheries and fish farms in California will simply go out of business.

We fail to see where any problem exists that these regulations would solve. Thank you for considering our request to reject these onerous, unneeded regulations that could not come at a more challenging economic time, not only for California small business owners, but all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kabateck", is written over a printed name and title.

John Kabateck  
Executive Director, NFIB/California