



November 5, 2014

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

Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Phase-In of AB 711 (Lead Ammunition) and Follow-Up Legislation to Provide Alternatives**

Dear President Sutton and Director Bonham:

The Fish and Game Commission is urged by the California Association of Firearms Retailers (CAFR) to support legislation that would provide alternatives to an absolute ban on traditional ammunition (AB 711). Also, the Department is also urged to sponsor this follow-up legislation

CAFR supports an alternative that would require a hunter to bury, cover or otherwise make unavailable to predators or scavengers any entrails, carcasses or other remains of animals taken with a firearm by him or her unless the hunter used nonlead ammunition.

Such a provision would provide hunters the alternative of using traditional ammunition, subject to the above restrictions and implementing regulations that would be adopted by the commission.

The research presentation by Southwick Associates, Inc., made to the Wildlife Resources Committee on the projected negative impacts of AB 711 on hunters, businesses and the Department of Fish and Wildlife provided a chilling picture of what would likely happen if AB 711 is implemented without alternatives such as the restricted use of traditional ammunition being made available.

There is also the uncertainty of whether nonlead ammunition will actually be available to hunters, or if so, whether there will be adequate supplies in popular hunting cartridges.

The sale of ammunition to hunters is a large part of the business revenues for many retailers. Hunters usually also purchase other items while in a retailer's store such as hunting related supplies and camping equipment.

It is not anticipated that there will be adequate supplies of nonlead ammunition available for sale, if any. The federal government has classified it as prohibited armor piercing ammunition and has not shown any signs of modifying its position. Accordingly, manufacturers are reluctant to produce it.

The loss of a large segment of their revenue stream would be disastrous for retailers. They may have to reduce the number of jobs they provide and there would be the unintended consequence of generating less sales and income tax revenue for all levels of government.

Furthermore, if adequate nonlead ammunition is not available, there would be a commensurate loss of hunting license sales thus impacting the budget of the Department of Fish and Wildlife relative to its wildlife management and enforcement programs.

The Governor, in his signing message for AB 711, acknowledged the importance of hunters as conservationists, and asked that the department and the commission work together in implementing AB 711 to find an approach that provides the least amount of disruption to hunters possible.

Implementing such an approach would also benefit retailers of ammunition and hunting related items by avoiding the loss of revenues and the impacts such revenue losses would have on their businesses.

Supporting/sponsoring the enactment of the above described follow up legislation, which would provide a rational and effective alternative to a complete ban on traditional ammunition, would fulfill the Governor's request for such an approach to implementation. It would also help prevent a further decline of businesses in California.

Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or [lynch@lynchlobby.com](mailto:lynch@lynchlobby.com).

Sincerely,



Marc Halcon, President  
California Association of Firearm Retailers

cc: Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commissioners  
Governor Jerry Brown  
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate  
California Association of Firearm Retailers