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COMMISSION

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We are writing regarding the implementation date for AB711.

It is our understanding the California Fish & Game Commission has proposed full implementation of AB711 but not until 2019.

The purpose of this law is to ban the use of lead projectiles in an effort to eliminate lead poisoning from occurring in our native wildlife. Some of California's most precious species are endangered and at risk of becoming extinct due to le poisoning - namely the California Condor.

An earlier implementation of this law is not only necessary for the safety of our wildlife, but fiscally responsible. It costs millions each year to monitor and treat lead poisoned wildlife, only to send them back into the wild to return for yet another costly treatment. The burden to conservationists with lead ammunition use exceeds the burden borne by recreational users and the Department and therefore a more accelerated implementation is justified. Implementation of AB711 is reasonable and will further abate this costly burden and allow our native species to thrive.

Manufacturers have successfully enhanced their production to meet the needs of California's progressive environmental laws. This time is no different. If demand is great, manufacturing will supply.

Phasing out lead ammunition quickly will minimize the harms to wildlife and alleviate the high costs of eliminating those harms and the market will respond accordingly.

Please implement AB711 by 2017

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