



April 5, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr., Chair
 Assembly Public Safety Committee
 1020 N Street, Room 111
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1507 (Gallagher): Firearms: State Property - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The undersigned non-profit wildlife conservation organizations are pleased to support AB 1507 (Gallagher) – legislation which would exempt events hosted by a youth sport shooting organization, a youth hunting organization, or a nonprofit conservation organization from prohibitions in existing law which ban the sale of any firearm, firearm part, or ammunition on state-owned property.

Nonprofit organizations – including those intended to benefit our wildlife and promote our outdoor traditions and youth shooting sports – must implement programs which include staff, supplies, training, equipment and other expenses to achieve their intended public benefits. These organizations depend upon annual fundraising events which involve raffles and/or auctions which often include sporting arms and munitions to raise the revenue necessary to conduct their operations. Traditionally, these fundraising events have been held at county fairgrounds (including those located on state-owned properties) as well as state lands as there are few other cost-effective venues available.

Unfortunately, SB 915 (2022) – which banned the sale of all firearms and ammunition on state-owned property – did not include any exemptions for these types of charitable events. Without the legal authorizations to conduct raffles and auctions containing sporting arms and munitions at these state venues, youth sport shooting, youth hunting, and nonprofit conservation organizations are finding it difficult to successfully raise the funds necessary to continue their important public benefit programs.

It is worth noting that all firearms raffled or sold at these fundraising events are still held to the same strict laws – including waiting periods and background checks – that apply to firearm sales conducted at brick-and-mortar gun stores.

The undersigned organizations strongly support laws which enhance public safety by keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals. However, we do not believe the intent of SB 915 was to constrain the fundraising capability of nonprofit organizations whose programs benefit our wildlife, outdoor traditions, and promote firearms safety, responsibility, sportsmanship, and high moral and ethical standards of personal conduct to our youth. AB 1507 would address these serious concerns by adding events hosted by these types of organizations to the exemptions already called out in SB 915.

For all the above stated reasons we urge your support of AB 1507 when it comes before your Assembly Public Safety Committee on April 11th.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bronson, Director of Government Affairs
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Don Martin, President
California Chapter – Wild Sheep Foundation

Lori Jacobs, President
California Houndsmen for Conservation

Adam Chavez, President
California Hawking Club

Steve Jarvis, Chief Executive Officer
California Deer Association

Steve Chappell, Executive Director
Suisun Resource Conservation District

Fred Harpster, President
Black Brant Group

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Government Relations
California Waterfowl Association

Steve Miller, President
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Gary F. Brennan, President
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

Corey Thompson, President
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council

Chriss Bowles, President
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association

James Stone, President
Nor-Cal Guides & Sportsmen's Association

Rick Travis, Legislative Director
California Rifle & Pistol Association

Lisa C. McNamee, Legislative Coordinator
California Chapters – Safari Club International

Steve Hunter, President
Golden Gate Chapter - Safari Club International

Marc Engstrom, Director of Public Policy, California
Ducks Unlimited

Wayne Wickham, President
Sacramento Chapter - Safari Club International

Clark Smith, President
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter - Safari Club International

Dawnita Harwood, President
California State Chapter – National Wild Turkey Federation

Devin O’Dea, California Chapter Coordinator
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
The Honorable James Gallagher