



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
CALIFORNIA

May 16, 2024

**RE: Support for AB 2558**

Dear Assembly Member Hart,

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) is a 501c3 non-profit that seeks to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting through education and work on behalf of fish, wildlife, and wild places. With chapters in 49 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory, as well as close to 400,000 supporters, BHA attracts sportsmen, women, and other public land users from across the continent. As the voice for our wild public lands, waters, and wildlife, BHA is dedicated to restoration and conservation efforts that conserve vital ecosystem functions and expand public access for hunting and fishing.

As the voice for our public lands, waters, and wildlife, protecting California's diverse freshwater ecosystems is of the highest priority for Backcountry Hunter's & Anglers. A key element of this is fish passage. Anadromous fish, particularly sport fish like salmon and steelhead, are not only keystone species for our state's fluvial ecosystems, but are also essential sources of food and cultural tradition for a diverse group of Californians, including Indigenous Tribes. Our state must take all appropriate measures to ensure that future development of California's infrastructure does not disturb fish passages.

AB 2558 strengthens the priority of fish passage in California Department of Transportation planning processes, helping to ensure that anadromous fish will be minimally impacted by future agency infrastructure projects. Anglers of all kinds rely on health populations of fish, and those populations need the ability to move freely. The California Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers supports AB 2558 and urges its passage.

Thank you for your commitment to conserving California's fish species and freshwater habitat.

Sincerely,

Eric Hanson  
California Chapter Co-Chair  
Backcountry Hunters & Angers



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