



Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

Affiliate National B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

Sponsored by  

January 31, 2011

Dear Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation I/we oppose General Assembly Committee Bill 59, An Act Prohibiting The Sale Or Use Of Fishing Sinkers, Jigs, And Tire Weights That Contain Lead. Such a ban is not biologically justified, would place an undue economic burden on the anglers of our state and would supersede the Department of Environmental Protection's long-standing state authority to manage fish and wildlife resources.

There is no substantial evidence to suggest that lead fishing tackle has detrimental impacts on loon, or other migratory waterfowl populations. In fact, a study by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service found that less than one percent of waterfowl and other bird mortality can be attributed to lead ingestion.

The use of lead in fishing tackle dates back thousands of years because of its unique qualities, including the fact that it is cheap and easy to obtain. We fear that if this Bill became law, it would discourage many anglers from participating in recreational fishing activities. A drop in participation would mean shortfalls in license sales and excise taxes that support fish and wildlife management efforts within our states.

Please deny this unjustified and unnecessary Bill to impose a ban on lead fishing tackle in Connecticut.

Sincerely,



David A. Santos
Conservation Director
Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation