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Ms. Liane Randolph, Chair

California Air Resources Board, c/o chc2021, 1001 I (eye) Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

As owner of Fish with the Finest Inc in Oxnard California, I have worked my entire life in the fishing industry, both commercial and sportfishing. I am 4th generation fisherman and have raised and supported my family setting a goal to own and operate a small fleet of my own. My dream finally came true and after 20+ years in the industry I was able to finally own a small modest sportfishing operation. Everything I have worked for is now in jeopardy. This would end up leaving us destitute, and possibly homeless as we would not be able to afford our house payments, our employees would be in the same predicament, as they have been doing this line of work as a career. This is their trade. Are you going to pay their bills and put them through school to learn a new trade? Find them employment? Even though we as a community have done what we can to reduce emissions with our boats. We just recently repowered our 2 boats engines to tier 3 as well.

Will this new Bill you are trying to put into place, the regulations as drafted require technology that has not been developed or proven safe at sea, and consequently are economically and structurally impossible to comply with – requiring boats constructed of wood/fiberglass to be removed from service as soon as 2031. Timing could not be worse. With the COVID-19 pandemic came economic consequences and now I am expected to finance new boats and have them in operation no later than 2034. How is that possible? I am at an age that this would NEVER work! I can’t afford a new metal boat, let alone 2. I doubt few financial institutions will approve a loan when my existing boats would have no resale value in California after being deemed non-compliant.

Not only would it affect us as a business, think of the local families, we have people that come out fishing to provide food for their family’s dinner tables. It’s less expensive than the grocery stores, plus they know what they are eating. Sustainable fishing, fish caught in the wild, not farmed, that is all regulated but the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Being on the open water also provides therapy, it’s been proven.

The economic impact alone would be devastating. We support local tourism, create jobs, and provide to charities for the local Veterans, first responders and gold star families.

Historically, CARB has regulated commercial fishing/whale watching boats and commercial passenger boats the same way – their engines are technically identical. CARB’s proposed regulations apply a double standard with commercial fishing boats subject to substantially less stringent and less costly requirements. CARB should return passenger boats to the same vessel category as commercial fishing boats so that you can continue to transition to lower emission engines as it is economically feasible, and technology becomes available.

Respectfully,

Christopher H. Volaski

Owner/Operator