November 3, 2021

Ms. Liane Randolph, Chair

c/o Harborcraft

California Air Resources Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed CARB Commercial Harborcraft Regulations/Sportfishing Boat Engine Regulations, oppose.

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Alliance of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, representing eleven local chambers in the three-county area, I write to oppose the proposed CARB Commercial Harborcraft Regulation/Sportfishing Boat Regulations.

Representing three coastal counties, sport fishing, whale watching, and cruises are an important part of the tourist economy. Statewide recreational fishing contributes $5.6 billion annually in economic activity, supporting nearly 40,000 California jobs.

The sportfishing industry embraces the need to reduce engine emissions, securing air quality grants over the years to upgrade vessels with cleaner burning engines. However, Chamber Alliance believes harbor craft engine regulations recently proposed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) place an undue burden on family-owned boating operations.

The lack of real technology solutions, and the cost of those that exist, will result in the vast majority of sportfishing and whale watching vessels being taken out of service as vessels made of wood and fiberglass cannot be modified as steel hulled vessels can. Vessels that can be modified will incur a significant cost for retrofit and will be faced with the potential safety issues. The impact of the regulations will be felt by the sportfishing industry within 3-6 years.

As a community, we share the State’s desire to reduce engine emissions, however, the regulations as drafted will adversely affect sportfishing and whale watching businesses, and communities economically dependent on a strong and vibrant hospitality and tourism industry. This is why we believe the proposed regulations will undermine your economic plan that aims to rebuild California’s economy and recover 1.2 million tourism and hospitality jobs lost .

For the aforementioned reasons, we encourage your Administration to work with the sportfishing industry to develop air quality regulations that are economically feasible, take into account existing technology and not putting the safety of passengers and crew at risk.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Glen Morris

Chair Tri-County Chamber Alliance of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties