

AB 634 GOES TO THE SENATE FLOOR!

Thanks to all of your support letters and emails, AB 634 passed out of the Senate Committee on Judiciary today on a 5-0 vote. It is now headed for the Senate Floor, where it must be approved no later than August 31, 2010, but could be voted upon as early as Tuesday, June 15th.

California Ships to Reefs has vigorously worked to gain passage of this bill, which will lay the groundwork for artificial reefing projects along the length of the California coast. AB 634 protects state and local agencies from liability in the event of diving accidents that occur on artificial reefs controlled by state agencies. It provides the protection governmental agencies need to go forward with these projects.

Artificial reefs are created by sinking decommissioned military or retired commercial vessels in harbors, where they quickly become breeding grounds for new ocean life. The rejuvenated ocean environments attract divers, fishermen and other recreational opportunities, pumping additional income into local businesses. The reefs also provide a reasonable alternative to the long-term storage or scrapping of the ships.

The efforts of our organization and its volunteers got this bill through the State Assembly with a remarkable 71-0 vote. Now it's time to push the bill through the Senate.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

For artificial reefing to succeed in California the way it has elsewhere, such as Florida and British Columbia, it is critical that AB 634 is enacted. Please express your support by calling, emailing or faxing your State Senator. Because AB 634 can be voted upon as early as Tuesday, June 15th, snail mail is not recommended. Feel free to use the sample letter below to express your support. You can simply copy and paste it into the "comments" section of the member's website contact page, or send an email.

If you don't know who your State Senator is visit <http://192.234.213.69/smapsearch/framepage.asp>. Once you Senator's name & address appears, click on his/her name & then click on the "Contact" button and follow the email instructions.

Thank you for your help!

Honorable Your Senator's Name
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room _____
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 634 - Support

Dear Senator _____,

As an avid ocean sport enthusiast and constituent concerned with ocean conservancy, I would like to express my full support for Assembly Bill AB634. This bill will enable the State and local jurisdictions to participate in the placing of artificial reefs, beneficial to the economy and the environment, free of the liability for injuries that might occur to persons diving on these reefs. I believe that artificial reefing offers benefits for ocean conservancy, economic benefits to businesses providing services for ocean enthusiasts, and viable alternatives for disposal of decommissioned military or retired commercial vessels.

I support AB 634 and ask you to help ensure that it passes through the State Legislature.

Sincerely,

your name here