

## **AB 634 Goes to the Governor!**

In another coup for California Ships to Reefs (CSTR), the critical bill AB 634 sailed through the State Senate Monday June 28<sup>th</sup>, by unanimous consent. The bill, which will protect state and local agencies from liability in the event of diving accidents on artificial reefs, is now on its way to the Governor's desk for final approval.

"Thanks to the hard work of our members and the many people who sent emails, faxes and letters through every step of this process, our bill passed through both houses of the state legislature without a single no vote," said Joel Geldin, Chairman and CEO of CSTR. "This is a remarkable accomplishment and gives our organization more political credibility. We can clearly get things done and unite people across the political spectrum."

The bill is a crucial cornerstone to CSTR's mission to create a chain of artificial reefs on the California coast, building new diving and fishing sites and helping revive the ocean environment. For local and state agencies to approve these projects they must know they will be exempt from the kind of liability AB 634 protects them against.

"Artificial reefing is a win-win solution," noted Geldin. "We sink decommissioned military or commercial ships which would otherwise just be scrapped. We create rich new ocean environments. And we bring in lots of new money in recreational dollars spent at reefing sites. The unanimous support we gained on this vote proves the legislature understood our message and sees the value of our mission."

We need your help now for the final step of this approval. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger must sign the bill within the next 30 days for it to become law. Let's make sure he hears our message and enacts the bill into law. Please call, email, write or fax the Governor. Feel free to use the sample letter below to express your support.

If you wish to email the Governor visit <http://gov.ca.gov/interact> and follow the instructions. If you want to call his office the number is 916-445-2841, or you may fax the Governor at 916-558-3160.

Thank you for your help!

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Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 634 - Support

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

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 can provide great benefits for ocean conservancy, economic benefits for businesses providing services to ocean enthusiasts, and viable alternatives for disposal of decommissioned military or retired commercial vessels.

I support AB 634 and ask you to sign the bill.

Sincerely,

*your name here*