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April 17, 2013

The Honorable Kevin de Leon
Chair, Senate Appropriations
California State Senate, District 22
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 122 (Lieu) – SUPPORT - Drivers licenses: veteran designation

Dear Chair de Leon:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, we respectfully request that you **SUPPORT SB 122 (Lieu)** when it is heard in your committee on April 22nd. SB 122 would delete the sunset date on the Vessel Turn in Program (VTIP), which allows boat owners to dispose of, at no cost, unwanted, dilapidated vessels.

California has the second largest number of state boat registrations in this country, trailing only behind Florida. Here in Solano County our popular waterways attract an active recreational boating community. Unfortunately, with the number of boats we have in this state we all too often see high rates of vessel abandonment. Abandoned vessels can cause significant environmental degradation resulting from oil, fuel, chemicals and other raw sewage that leak into the waterways.

In order to continue to promote and protect our waterways, it is important that we have the tools in place that help prevent vessel abandonment. The Vessel Turn in Program is one such tool that has proven to be effective in reducing abandoned vessels, and does so at a savings to the state. As shown in this bill's analysis, recent statistics demonstrate that abandoned vehicles simply require more resources to dispose of than surrendered ones.

This program is a proven success and continues to gain popularity throughout the state. Without it, many of the surrendered vessels would likely have been abandoned causing further damage to our environment, while drawing down local resources. By extending the sunset of this program, we can ensure that local agencies will be continue to be able to deal with vessel abandonment in a practical, cost effective and efficient manner.

For these reasons, I would like to again respectfully request that you vote **"AYE"** on **SB 122 (Lieu)** when it is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Seifert, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee Consultants
The Honorable Lois Wolk, Senate District 3
The Honorable Susan Bonilla, Assembly District 14
The Honorable Mariko Yamada, Assembly District 4
Paul Yoder, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.