



CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

Via Email Only

March 11, 2019

Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support for AB 527 (Voepel)

Dear Chair Garcia and Members of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee:

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce supports AB 527 which would eliminate the current sunset provision on the sale of alligator and crocodile skin products in California.

As the principal advocate for the business community in Beverly Hills, we represent retailers who sell millions of dollars of alligator and crocodile skins products every year to tourists and locals alike. We have reached out to the business community and heard overwhelmingly how much negative impact a failure to eliminate the sunset will have upon our City and region. The City of Beverly Hills is famous around the world for its diverse and comprehensive luxury retail offerings and the prohibition of these products would place our City – and our state – at a great competitive disadvantage with other states where there is no such prohibition. An outright ban would put people with legitimate businesses out of jobs.

The original prohibition on the sale of alligator and crocodile skins was based on the fact that the alligator was an endangered species. However, the alligator came off the endangered species list in 1987 and the number of alligators is now plentiful in the United States. Alligator farming and use is a regulated industry with multiple laws and industry groups that promulgate standards regarding their appropriate use.

California's sunset allowing commercially available alligator products has been extended three times over the past 15 years, demonstrating a pattern and intent that these products should continue to be legally sold.

Based on this fact, and the importance of this business to key sectors within our economy, we respectfully ask that you support AB 527.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Johnson
President and CEO
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce