

**SB 181**  
**Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition – Phase-Out**

**UNFAVORABLE**

SB 181 would require the Department of Natural Resources to phase-out lead or lead-based ammunition for the hunting of all game species. I respectfully request that committee members become acquainted with the research available from HuntForTruth.org before considering this legislation.

Groups behind the proposed ban on the use of traditional ammunition have based their claims on faulty scientific studies and are probably driven by an anti-hunting and anti-gun agenda. Many of the research papers used by anti-lead ammunition proponents to support lead ammunition bans have consistently been critiqued for questionable scientific methodology. These researchers have used selectively incorporated (cherry-picked) scientific data to support their conclusions, while consistently ignoring abundant alternative sources of lead found in the environment that are likely the actual cause of lead poisoning in some wildlife.

The research and information presented by the Hunt For Truth Association through <https://www.huntfortruth.org/> has raised serious questions about the purported causal link between traditional ammunition and lead poisoning and/or mortality in California condors and other wildlife:

- *In 2007, proponents of one of the nation's first lead ammunition bans, California Assembly Bill (AB) 821, claimed that California condors were being poisoned by consuming hunters' lead ammunition. They promised that if hunters stopped using lead ammunition in the condor range, the lead poisoning would cease. The California Fish and Game Commission did not accept these claims. So the proponents leap-frogged the Commission's scientific review process and instead went straight to the California Legislature where they had pre-disposed politicians willing to pass the law without giving it the scrutiny that the proposal would have received had it gone through the usual process with the Fish and Game Commission. The Legislature passed AB 821, banning the use of lead ammunition in the Condor range.*
- *Despite the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's records showing a 99% compliance rate by hunters with the AB 821 lead ammunition ban, a comparison of pre-ban and post-ban blood-lead data from condors in the "condor range" indicates that the incidence of lead exposure and poisoning in condors remains static, or has increased slightly! This failure of the lead ammunition ban has compounded the problem and left multiple condors dead. The failure of California's lead ammunition ban to decrease lead poisoning proves that alternative sources of lead in the environment are causing lead poisoning in condors.*
- *As activist researchers twist and manipulate the scientific process to incriminate lead ammunition as the sole source of lead poisoning in hunting areas, they unconscionably and inexplicably ignore the presence of numerous non-ammunition lead sources that are common in the environment. For example, lead-based paint, gasoline, pesticides and micro-trash, which include hardware such as galvanized screws, nuts, bolts, washers and the like have all been shown to be available and attractive to condors. These items have appeared not only in their nests, but also in their digestive tract and the digestive tracts of their fledglings. However, activists and researchers advocating for lead bans consistently overlook such alternative sources.*

The failure of California's lead ammunition ban to successfully address lead poisoning in condors strongly indicates that alternative sources of lead, other than hunters' ammunition, is the primary cause of lead exposure, toxicity and mortality in condors and other affected species. There is a growing body of science that examines

the alleged nexus between lead ammunition and lead poisoning in wildlife and critically evaluates the alternative sources of lead in the environment. HuntForTruth.org has compiled reference materials to present the real facts and truth regarding the debate on the use of lead ammunition in hunting:

- <https://www.huntfortruth.org/papersstudies->
- <https://www.huntfortruth.org/reportsarticles>
- <https://www.huntfortruth.org/reference-materials>

Please carefully consider this research before supporting SB 181. These anti-hunting and anti-gun groups distort the facts regarding the use of lead ammunition, undermine public interests, threaten hunters' and recreational shooters' rights, suppress important conservationist efforts, and, ironically, threaten the fragile California condor population and other natural wildlife resources that they purport to champion.

I respectfully request an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 181.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Cathy S. Wright, self  
North Beach, MD  
919.360.9484  
[cathywrightnra@gmail.com](mailto:cathywrightnra@gmail.com)