



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

# WILDAID



June 24, 2011

Members of the California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senators,

We are writing to ask for your support in regards to shark conservation. Your support for Assembly Bill 376 will acknowledge the importance of the continued existence of the shark species to maintain a healthy ocean ecosystem.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has concluded that a third of shark species are now threatened with extinction of some kind. And recent estimates state that up to 73 million sharks are killed each year for use in shark fin soup and other products. Traditionally shark fin was affordable only to the elite, and consequently the issue of decimation of species was not a concern. But with the explosion of the world's population, and an increasing number of wealthy consumers, this can no longer be considered true, as has been evidenced by the decimation of shark populations worldwide. Despite fisheries attempts at regulation, the inhumane practice of finning continues unabated too, as does the illegal capture of sharks from marine reserves and sovereign waters.

While some opponents to AB 376 argue that there are ways to handle the practice other than completely banning shark fin consumption, all attempts at regulation thus far have been ineffective and there is no evidence that any further attempts at regulation would be successful. Many shark populations do not have time for costly experiments. Shark fin is sourced from all over the world, and enforcement at sea is virtually impossible due to the sheer size of the ocean primarily, but also because there is no uniform governing body to carry out such enforcement, due mainly to the sovereignty of nations. Therefore, a sales ban, which has broad support from the public at large, including the Asian and Asian American populations, is absolutely necessary if we are to conserve sharks and, in effect, our entire ocean ecosystem (which incidentally we depend upon for most of the world's oxygen) for generations to come. Since California is now the largest source of demand for shark fin outside of Asia, we are in a unique position to lead the world in shark conservation with AB 376.

We urge you to support AB 376 and join us in protecting sharks from extinction.

Wayne Pacelle  
President and CEO  
The HSUS

Peter Knights  
Executive Director  
WildAid

Frances Beinecke  
President  
NRDC

Leonardo DiCaprio  
Actor/Activist



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*Joined by*

Yao Ming  
Professional athlete

Edward Norton  
Actor/Activist

Alexander Skarsgard  
Actor

Alyssa Milano  
Actor

Amanda Righetti  
Actor

Anthony Keidis  
Musician/Activist

Ariana Grande  
Singer/Actor

Ben Stiller  
Actor/Director

Colbie Caillat  
Grammy Award Winner  
Singer/Songwriter

Dominic Monaghan  
Actor

Elizabeth Gore  
United Nations Foundation

Emily Deschanel  
Actor

Ethan Suplee  
Actor

Flea  
Musician/Activist

Hal Sparks  
Comedian/Actor

Ian Somerhalder  
Actor  
Founder, IS Foundation

Kelly Hu  
Actor

Ke\$ha  
Multi-Platinum Selling  
Singer/Songwriter

Kristen Bell  
Actor

Lindsay Pulsipher  
Actor

Lukas Haas  
Actor

Megan Fox  
Actor

Michael Vartan  
Actor

Mike Muller  
Photographer

Nigel Barker  
Photographer

Paul Rudd  
Actor

Philippe Cousteau  
CEO, EarthEcho International  
CNN Correspondent

Rachel Bilson  
Actor

Robert Davi  
Actor

Sally Pressman  
Actor

Sam Trammell  
Actor

Scarlett Johansson  
Actor

Steve Berra  
Professional Skateboarder

Steve-O  
Actor/Personality

Wendie Malick  
Actor

cc: Assembly members Paul Fong and Jared Huffman