



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**WILDAID**



June 24, 2011

Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
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 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 Humane Society

Peter Knights  
Executive Director  
WildAID

Frances Beinecke  
President  
NRDC

Leonardo DiCaprio  
Actor/Activist



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

# WILDAID



*Joined by*

Yao Ming  
Professional athlete

Edward Norton  
Actor/Activist

Alexander Skarsgard  
Actor, *True Blood*

Alyssa Milano  
Actor, *Hall Pass*

Amanda Righetti  
Actor, *The Mentalist*

Anthony Keidis  
Musician/Activist  
*Red Hot Chili Peppers*

Ariana Grande  
Singer/Actor, *Victorious*

Ben Stiller  
Actor/Director

Colbie Caillat  
Grammy Award Winner  
Singer/Songwriter

Dominic Monaghan  
Actor, *Lost*

Elizabeth Gore  
United Nations Foundation  
Emily Deschanel  
Actor, *Bones*

Ethan Suplee  
Actor

Flea  
Musician/Activist  
*Red Hot Chili Peppers*

Hal Sparks  
Comedian/Actor

Ian Somerhalder  
Actor, *The Vampire Diaries*  
Founder, IS Foundation

Kelly Hu  
Actor, *Hawaii Five-O*

Ke\$ha  
Multi-Platinum Selling  
Singer/Songwriter

Kristen Bell  
Actor, *You Again*

Lindsay Pulsipher  
Actor, *True Blood*

Lukas Haas  
Actor

Megan Fox  
Actor, *Transformers*

Michael Vartan  
Actor, *Hawthorne*

Mike Muller  
Photographer

Nigel Barker  
Photographer, *America's  
Next Top Model*

Paul Rudd  
Actor, *Dinner for Schmucks*

Philippe Cousteau  
CEO, EarthEcho International  
CNN Correspondent

Rachel Bilson  
Actor, *Jumper*

Robert Davi  
Actor, *Stargate Atlantis*

Sally Pressman  
Actor, *Army Wives*

Sam Trammell  
Actor, *True Blood*

Scarlett Johansson  
Actor, *Iron Man 2*

Steve Berra  
Professional Skateboarder

Steve-O  
Actor/Personality, *Jackass 3.5*

Wendie Malick  
Actor, *Hot in Cleveland*

cc: Assembly members Paul Fong and Jared Huffman