



L, Sherman Island Duck Assn.



August 12, 2011

Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman,
House Committee on Natural Resources
1203 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Edward Markey
Ranking Minority Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
2108 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water and Power
428 Cannon Bldg
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Water and Power
1610 Longworth Bldg.
Washington DC, 20515

Re: Opposition to H.R. 1837 The San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act.

Dear Chairman Hastings, Chairman McClintock, Ranking Minority Member Markey and Ranking Minority Member Napolitano:

This letter will provide the concerns of the California and Oregon salmon fishing industry with the provisions of H.R. 1837 The San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act which would destroy our industry. We represent approximately 2,000 businesses and 23,000 people who are dependent on the California Central Valley salmon for all or part of our livelihoods.

On May 11, 2011, Congressman Devin Nunes introduced H.R. 1837. Since that time hundreds of organizations, political leaders and agencies have expressed grave concerns about various provisions of the bill. On May 30th many of us wrote Chairman McClintock outlining the devastating impact H.R. 1837 would have on the Central Valley salmon runs and the businesses of the salmon industry. This letter will focus on the provisions of H.R. 1837 that would gut the requirements of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, which we did not address at length in our prior letter.

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) was passed in 1992. It responded to a historic collapse of the California salmon populations and included key provisions designed to bring the salmon back. It recognized that minimum river and Delta flows were necessary if the salmon were to be recovered. It set aside 800,000 acre feet of water reserved in large part to provide the freshwater river and Delta flow needs for successful salmon spawning and migration survival. The CVPIA also recognized that substantial funds would be required for salmon habitat and other improvements. It set up a restoration fund to be administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and funded by CVPIA water contracts. This fund has annually provided \$50 to \$75 million for restoration and has been a key part of river and Delta projects to recover and improve salmon habitat. The restoration fund also funds water acquisitions for the wildlife refuges which are important to duck hunters. Finally, the CVPIA required that the wild Central Valley salmon populations be doubled.

The provisions of the CVPIA have contributed substantially to salmon habitat improvements, and after enactment, populations of salmon and other native fish rebounded throughout the 1990s. However, in the 2000s water exports from the Delta increased to much higher levels and the populations of salmon and other native species plummeted. The result has been a continued collapse of the salmon runs. Two of the runs are now in serious danger of extinction and there are now record low levels of fall run Chinook Salmon, the backbone of the fishery. To avoid complete loss of the salmon, the fishing seasons were completely shut down in 2008 and 2009 with just a token season in 2010. The impact of these events on the tens of thousands of people involved in the salmon industry has been devastating.

Mr. Nunes bill, H.R. 1837, would gut the provisions of the CVPIA and also would gut the Central Valley provisions of the Endangered Species Act which have been put into place by the National Marine Fisheries Service to avoid the salmon and steelhead extinctions and begin recovery. H.R. 1837 would eliminate the 800,000 acre feet of water critical for the survival of salmon, other fish, and wildlife and send it to junior water rights holders on the West side of the San Joaquin Valley. It would also eliminate the restoration fund and instead use the money to purchase more water for the agricultural interests. H.R. 1837 would take the administration of the restoration fund away from The Bureau of Reclamation and turn it over to a committee of water contractors.

In short, H.R. 1837 would remove all the rights of salmon for the water they need and the projects that can bring about their recovery. Salmon would be relegated to an almost sure extinction in order to satisfy the greedy demands of a few marginal agricultural districts. We urge the U.S. Congress not to be misled by this corporate greed. We urge that all changes to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act be eliminated from the bill. We support the program underway by the State of California to establish the best water plan for all of California which includes ecosystem recovery and protections for wildlife.

We strongly oppose H.R. 1837. This bill is a radical attempt to place the water demands of a few of California's most junior water rights holders ahead of all other California interests in a blatant water grab. No industry has suffered more than the salmon industry over the political maneuvering of these people. We urge congress to reject this bill particularly the changes to the CVPIA.

We appreciate your hearing our views.

Sincerely,

Zeke Grader

Pacific Coast Federation.
of Fishermen's Associations
San Francisco CA

Dick Pool

Water4Fish
Concord CA

Victor Gonella

Golden Gate Salmon Assn.
Petaluma, CA

Bill Jennings

California Sportfishing
Protection Alliance
Stockton CA

Jim Caito

Caito Fisheries
Fort Bragg, CA

Darrell Ticehurst

Coastside Fishing Club
Hillsborough, CA

Ken Elie

Outdoor Pro Shop
Cotati, CA

Randy Repass

West Marine
Watsonville, CA

Mike Hudson

Small Boat Commercial
Salmon Fishermen's Assn.
Berkeley CA

Peter Grenell

San Mateo Harbor Dist.
San Mateo, CA

Roger Thomas

Golden Gate Fishermen's Assn.
San Francisco CA

Mark Rockwell

Nor Cal Fed of Fly Fishers
Penn Valley, CA

Tom Creedon

Scoma's Resturant
Fishermen's Wharf, CA

Liz Hamilton

Northwest Sportfishing Industry
Alliance Oregon & Washington
Portland OR

Capt Jacky Douglas

Wacky Jacky Charters
San Francisco, CA

Larry Collins

SF Crab Boat Owners Assn.
San Francisco CA

Paul Johnson

Monterey Fish Market
San Francisco CA

Bart Hall

Fred Hall Shows
Long Beach CA

Woody Wood

Jeff Robles Associates
Whitmore CA

Elanor Starmer

Food & Water Watch
San Francisco, CA

Michael Schweit

SW Council Fed Fly Fishers
Northridge, CA

Joe Donatini

Johnson Hicks Marine
Santa Cruz, Ca

Todd Steiner

SPAWN
Forest Knolls, CA

Jim Martin

Berkley Conservation Inst.
Mulino, OR

Gary Coe

Kokanee Power
Citrus Heights CA

Capt Tom Joseph

Fish On Sportfishing
Santa Cruz, CA

Trevor Kennedy

Fisheries Foundation of Calif.
Elk Grove, CA

Mark Mcloch

Nor Cal Guides Assn.
Anderson CA

Dan Bacher

The Fish Sniffer
Elk Grove CA

Michael Scaglione

Pacific Catch Fish Grill
San Francisco, CA

Bill Divens

Salmon King Lodge West
Red Bluff, CA

Barbara Emley

F/V Autumn Gale
San Francisco, CA

Allen Harthorn

Friends of Butte Creek
Chico, CA

Roger Mammon

L Sherman Island Duck Hunters
Oakley, CA

Tom Mattusch

Hull Cat Sportfishing
Half Moon Bay

Dan Hasshaw

Hawkeye Marketing
Westlake Village CA

Bill Wells

Calif. Delta Chamber
Rio Vista, CA

Jim Cox

West Delta CA Striped Bass Assn.
Oakley, CA

Tim Klassen

Reel Steel Sportfishing
Eureka, CA

Brian Layng

International Sportsmen's Expo
Vancouver, WA

Bruce Tokars

Salmon Water Now
San Francisco CA

Craig Hanson

Alure Productions
San Francisco, CA

Marie Logan

SalmonAid
San Francisco, CA

Todd Fraser

Bayside Marine
Santa Cruz CA

Vance Staplin

Vance's Tackle
Citrus Heights CA

Ron La Force

United Outdoorsmen
Sacramento, CA

Frank Galusha

My Outdoor Buddy
North Calif. & So. Oregon

David Zeff

Zeff Attorneys
Dan Francisco, CA

Mike Augney

USAFishing.com
Petaluma CA

Roy Gray

Manufactures Rep. - Tackle
Auburn, CA

Colin Wing

F/V New Mary S II
Half moon Bay, CA

Sal Vallone

Bob Sands Fishing
Van Nuys, CA

Danny Layne

Fish'n Dan's Guide Service
Elk Grove, CA

Capt. Bill Smith

Riptide Charters
Montara, CA

Capt Chris Acacelo

Chris's Fishing Charters
Monterey, CA

Michael Fowlkes

Fox Sports Inside Fishing
Laguna Beach, CA

Capt Peter Bruno

Randy's Fishing Trips
Monterey, CA

Duncan MacLean

F/V Barbara Faye
Half Moon Bay, CA

Rich Basch

Ollie Damon's
Portland, OR

Capt Don Franklin

Soleman Sportfishing Charters
San Francisco, CA

Steve Fosmark

F/V Seadlerus ID 514-371
Moss Landing, CA

Capt Ed Gallia

New Easy Rider Charters
Berkeley, CA

Capt Sean Hodges

Hog Heaven Charters
Sausalito, CA

Ben Seerest

Accurate fishing products
Corona, CA

Peggy Beckett

Huck Finn Sportfishing
Half Moon Bay, CA

Jonah Li

Hi's Tackle Box
So San Francisco, CA

Capt John Atkinson

New Ray Ann Charters
Sausalito, CA

Craig Pobst

The Kitchen Agency
Del Mar, CA

Capt George Catagnola

Sandy Ann Charters
Bodega Bay, CA

Capt Brian Cutty

Chubasco Charters
Monterey, CA

Phil Pirone

Pro-Cure Bait Scents Inc
Salem, OR

Tom Hester

Poulsen Cascade Tackle LLC
Clackamas, OR

Harry Garabedian

New Seeker Charters
Emeryville, CA

Dana Stolzman

Salmon Restoration Federation
Redway, CA

Capt Bob Ingles

Queen of Hearts Charters
Half Moon bay, CA

Harold Davis

Davis Boats
Morro Bay, CA

Scot Hill

Western Boat & Tackle
San Rafael, CA

Galen Onizuka

Johnson Hicks Marine
Sausalito, CA

Capt Dennis Baxter

New Captain Pete Charters
Half Moon Bay, CA

Steven Grutba

Kai-USA
Tualatin, OR

Capt Chris Chan

Ankeny St. Sportfishing Charters
Half Moon Bay, CA

Capt Chris Duba

Silver Fox Charters
Berkeley, CA

Kathy Fosmark

Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries
Monterey, CA

Capt Robert Gallia

El Dorado Charters
Berkeley, CA

Randy Woolsey

Tom Posey Co
Portland, OR

Capt Brian Guiles

Flying Fish Charters
Berkeley, CA

Capt Tim Klassen

Reel Steel Sportfishing
Eureka, CA

Capt John Kluzmier

Sir Randy Charters
Monterey, CA

Capt Todd Magaline

Blue Runner Charters
Sausalito, CA

Capt Rick Powers

Bodega Bay Sportfishing
Bodega Bay, CA

Capt James Robertson

Outer Limit Charters
Sausalito, CA

Capt Steve Talmadge

Flash Sportfishing Charters
San Francisco, CA

Capt Richard Thornton

Trek II
Fort Bragg, CA

Glen Fukumoto

Outdoor Pro Shop
Oakland, CA

Duncan MacLean

Half Moon Bay Marketing Assn
Half Moon Bay, CA

Dan Parnel

Leisure Sales
Auburn, WA

Capt Joe Gallia

El Dorado III Charters
Berkeley, CA

Capt Nick Menigoz

Super Fish Charters
Emeryville, CA

Capt Frank Rescino

Lovely Martha Charters
San Francisco, CA

Capt Craig Shimokosu

New Salmon Queen Charters
Emeryville, CA

Capt Randy Thornton

Telstar Charters
Fort Bragg, CA

Capt Jay Yokomozo

Huck Finn Charters
Emeryville, CA

Bob Rees

NW Guides & Anglers Assn.
Tillamook, OR

Larry G. Allen

Southern Calif. Marine Institute
Terminal Island, CA

Rick Kennedy

Tight Lines Guide Service
Grass Valley, CA

Capt Nick Lemons

Star of Monterey Charters
Monterey, CA

Capt Harry Necees

Checkmate Charters
Monterey, CA

Capt David Ryan

Caroline Charters
Monterey, CA

Capt Ken Stagnaro

Stagnaro's Charters
Santa Cruz, CA

Capt Dale Walters

Que Sera Sera Charters
Half Moon Bay, CA

Capt Jack Chapman

Lovely Linda Sportfishing
Fair Oaks, CA

Phil Morlock

Shimano American
Irvine, CA

Rory Leonard

Springbox Gallery
Portland, OR

Roger Neufeldt

Rapala USA
Minnetonka, MN

- cc. Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.
Congressional Wild Salmon Caucus
California Congressional Delegation
Mr. David Hayes, Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior
Dr. Jane Leבחenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Mr. John Laird, Calif. Secretary of Natural Resources
Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Golden Gate Salmon Association, 11370 Auto Center Drive, Petaluma, CA 95952