



January 17, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao
1728 Longworth Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

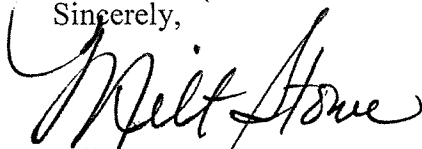
Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the United States, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by Federal regulations. As a result, more than 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, residents and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry due to the lack of surface water, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

On behalf of the Porterville City Council, we support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for the Central Valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful special protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the Federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long-term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues, and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this 115th Congress.

Sincerely,



Milt Stowe, Mayor
City of Porterville