

Madera County Farm Bureau

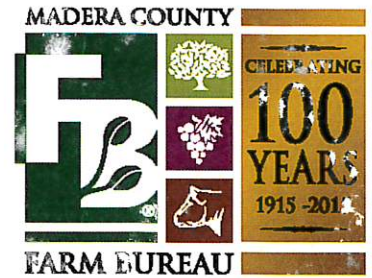
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February 27, 2017

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

Dear Representative Valadao,

On behalf of the Madera County Farm Bureau's (MCFB) membership, MCFB Past Presidents, and MCFB Board, we support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. Thank you for your important and critical work in developing a new water bill for Congress to address.

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has only been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens 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 for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. Cities in the Central Valley have run dry, relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water.

For years, there has been a fight to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. This bill would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. The bill also requires regulators to substantiate claims with scientific evidence. 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 and your colleagues in the Senate on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, to ensure

this will be a successful, bipartisan effort to secure long-term water supply reliability. MCFB continues to remain very concerned about water reliability in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout California, and supports the efforts of our members of Congress to address immediate concerns for water reliability and develop a solution that can respond to our urgent and dire situation and develop comprehensive long term solutions. We thank Congressman Valadao for introducing H.R. 23.

Again, thank you for your continuing efforts to fight for San Joaquin Valley water issues. We appreciate and support your leadership in introducing this bill.

Sincerely,



Jay Mahil,
President