



March 9, 2016

The Honorable Jeffrey Denham  
1730 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: Support for H.R. 4582, the Save Our Salmon Act of 2016**

Dear Congressman Denham:

The Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and Turlock Irrigation District (TID) support your newly introduced H.R. 4582, the Save Our Salmon Act of 2016. Predation by striped bass and other non-native fish is causing a significant decline in the number of native salmon migrating from the Tuolumne River, and we appreciate your continued efforts to identify common-sense solutions to this problem.

Though MID and TID are not involved in the Central Valley Project, we support your efforts to remove the doubling requirement for striped bass from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. H.R. 4582 will bring greater awareness of the impact of predation on native salmon evident throughout California. This is critical to addressing – and hopefully reversing – the ongoing salmon decline in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, as well as the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.

MID and TID are currently in the process of relicensing the Don Pedro Project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Through the relicensing process, we have conducted 33 studies to provide an accurate representation of the current condition of the reservoir and the lower Tuolumne River. One study to note is our 2012 predation study, which FERC required us to perform in order to evaluate the impact that predation by non-native fish is having on the migration of salmon from the lower Tuolumne River. This study determined that more than 90% of the out-migrating smolts were consumed by non-native largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass prior to reaching the San Joaquin River. MID and TID continue to advocate for solutions that rationally address the proven threat of predation.

Again, we strongly support H.R. 4582, and appreciate your ongoing efforts to curb the effects of predation on the salmon population. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this legislation.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory E Salyer".

Greg Salyer  
Interim General Manager  
Modesto Irrigation District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Casey Hashimoto".

Casey Hashimoto  
General Manager  
Turlock Irrigation District