



SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Feb. 29, 2016

Rep. Jeff Denham, 10th Congressional District
1730 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 201515

Re: Save Our Salmon Act

Dear Congressman Denham,

Our agencies commend you for the introduction of the Save Our Salmon Act of 2016, which provides necessary and responsible relief from illogical goals for striped bass populations in California. You have our full support in your effort to remove the doubling requirement for striped bass contained in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992.

As H.R. 4582 states, the CVPIA mandated doubling the population of all anadromous fish as part of an effort to protect fish. That may have made sense in 1992, but certainly does not today. The CVPIA is not supported by the science that has been conducted that clearly shows striped bass to be a voracious predator and a prime contributor to the decline of endangered salmon and steelhead populations in California. In fact, a study on the Tuolumne River indicated that striped bass eat more than 90% of young salmon and steelhead before they can make their way to the Pacific Ocean.

We also agree with you that the CVPIA has required millions of acre-feet of water to be wastefully sent down Central Valley rivers to the ocean. By itself, more water is not the solution to helping endangered fish populations. Efforts to reduce predation and restore spawning habitat are equally vital.

Finally, during a time of serious drought in California, we join with other agencies in support of sensible water management policies that balance the needs of agriculture, families and environmental needs.

We applaud your consistent efforts to combat predation that devastates salmon and steelhead populations as well as your ideas to responsibly manage California's water system.

Please let us know what else we can do to assist you.

Respectfully,

Steve Knell
Oakdale Irrigation District

Peter Rietkerk,
South San Joaquin Irrigation District