



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 872, the Federally Integrated Species Health Act - SUPPORT

Dear Representatives Calvert,

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is pleased to support H.R. 872, the Federally Integrated Species Health Act, or FISH Act, and appreciates your leadership on this issue. Metropolitan is a regional wholesaler that provides water for 26 member agencies to deliver - either directly or through their sub-agencies - to nearly 19 million people living in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

As you know two federal agencies, the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service, have jurisdiction over anadromous species. This can result in redundant and at times conflicting requirements for environmental habitat management as species travel between freshwater and marine ecosystems. These management conflicts do not arise for species that spend their life in only one aquatic ecosystem. The FISH Act consolidates management of anadromous species into the Department of Interior. California's water delivery system would benefit from this change by having a single federal agency responsible for anadromous species management.

Metropolitan recommends this bill move forward in conjunction with an effort to ensure that the Fish and Wildlife Service has the necessary resources and funding to take on these new management responsibilities. Your leadership and role on the Appropriations Committee will be critical to making this transition successful and I look forward to working with you on this.

Thank you for your work on the FISH Act; I hope it will move forward this Congress. Please feel free to contact Abby Schneider, our Executive Legislative Representative (aschneider@mwdh2o.com), if Metropolitan can be of any assistance in advancing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adel Hagekhalil".

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

cc: The Honorable Tom McClintock, The Honorable Michael Simpson, The Honorable Michelle Steel, The Honorable Jim Costa, The Honorable Jay Obernolte, The Honorable Darrell Issa