



CRAB BOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
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WINNEMEM
WINTU TRIBE



SIERRA CLUB
CALIFORNIA



FRIENDS
OF THE
RIVER



February 12, 2010

Re: Opposition to Senator Feinstein's Endangered Species Waiver on the Jobs Bill and the End-Run Around Federal Contract Laws

Dear Members of Congress:

We the undersigned, representing over one million people in California, oppose weakening the endangered species law to serve a few corporate irrigators in California. This special interest legislative effort will serve campaign contributors and very few farmers. It will do little or nothing to remedy the unemployment in the Central Valley, which has been mired in poverty while a select few corporate agricultural interests receive billions in federal taxpayer subsidies.

Placing this amendment on the Jobs Bill will, in fact, cost jobs. In 2008 and 2009, the forced closure of the Salmon fishing seasons resulted in 23,000 jobs lost each year and a \$1.4 billion annual impact to the California economy. Based upon Sacramento River Salmon figures released yesterday, it is obvious that a complete closure of the Salmon industry is likely again this year. In fact, three straight years of closure likely will destroy much of the Salmon-Industry infrastructure in California, most of Oregon, and part of Washington. Even more jobs will be lost by Senator Feinstein's special-interest provision.

It sets a dangerous precedent to go around the Senate Rules and procedures with a special measure designed to financially benefit several large contributors. This tactic excludes public disclosure of the impacts. It will allow a few subsidized landowners to obtain federally subsidized water contracts at the expense of other water contractors. It also circumvents federal contract rules and procedures and the

safeguards provided under these regulations. Further this is a blatant attempt to obscure the environmental costs that these campaign contributors are perpetrating not only on California, but on the entire western coast Salmon industry and on the treaty rights of Tribal nations concerned with fisheries on the state's rivers.

Senator Feinstein claims these special corporate landowners need these exemptions from contract law and environmental protections. These special-interest exemptions to the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Protection Act would supposedly bring jobs to the people in the towns immediately surrounding these dynasty landowners. This promise is false. It has the same false ring of the half a century old Congressional promise that 6100 small family farms would be created if Northern California river water was brought to the desert on the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley. That jobs promise was never kept, and the same subsidized landowners are still in control of the water and the land. These exemptions will not bring the employment promises to these towns any closer. This poverty has existed both during droughts and during wet years. There is no evidence to support the contention that waiving these federal laws and regulations will improve the region's economic woes.

Finally, federal and state agencies have invested enormous amounts of resources and time to create a balanced solution to the ever increasing demands on California's scarce water supplies. This amendment creates a dangerous precedent—if you have enough money and influence—just go to a Senator and you can get around the rules.

Respectfully,



Jim Metropulos
Senior Advocate
Sierra Club California



Steven L. Evans
Conservation Director
Friends of the River



Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla
Campaign Director
Restore the Delta



Zeke Grader
Executive Director
Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Federation

Byron Leydecker
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