



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 28, 2012

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

### **Re: Oppose H.R. 1837 – Threatens Fishing Jobs, Salmon, and Water Quality and Reliability in CA**

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 1837, the so-called San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act, a radical bill to eliminate state and federal environmental protections for California's rivers that threatens thousands of fishing jobs, water quality in California's Bay-Delta estuary, and the reliability of the state's water supplies. The bill prioritizes the interests of large agribusinesses at the expense of commercial and recreational fishermen, Delta farmers, Delta communities, urban residents and California's water quality. That is why this highly controversial legislation is opposed by the State of California, many members of the California congressional delegation, including both U.S. Senators, leaders of both state legislative chambers, hundreds of commercial and recreational fishing groups, conservation organizations, municipal governments, water districts, and family farmers.

H.R. 1837 would eliminate desperately-needed protections for salmon and native fisheries, threatening thousands of fishing jobs and millions of dollars of income, as evidenced by the impacts seen during the first-ever closures of California's salmon fishery in 2008 and 2009, due to collapsing runs.

This legislation derails implementation of a bipartisan package of water policy reform bills adopted in 2009 by the State of California that required the establishment of a comprehensive Delta Plan to improve the state's water reliability as well as restore the Bay-Delta estuary. The bill would also block the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, the court-approved, bipartisan settlement that ended nearly twenty years of litigation over the San Joaquin River. All parties to that settlement—including fishermen, farmers, conservation groups, and the federal government—object to those provisions of H.R. 1837. Finally, this legislation would prevent the State of California from protecting state natural resources under state law and even under the state constitution.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 1837, an extreme giveaway to large agribusinesses that puts at risk thousands of fishing jobs, water quality in the Bay-Delta estuary, and the reliability of California's water supplies. We will strongly consider including votes on this bill in the 2012 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski  
President