

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Chairwoman
House Water and Power Subcommittee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris
Rodgers
Ranking Member
House Water and Power Subcommittee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

We are writing to respectfully request that the House Water and Power Subcommittee hold a legislative hearing on H.R. 856, the California Drought Alleviation Act (CDAA), as soon as possible. This legislation was introduced to help provide immediate relief to the millions of Californians affected by the natural and man-made drought emergency.

Since this historic drought is partially man-made, this bill suspends the Endangered Species Act at the Delta pumps in time of drought emergency while setting up a fish hatchery for endangered fish. Environmental regulations and never-ending litigation to protect the three-inch Delta Smelt and the salmon are restricting water for human consumption and use, essentially placing the value of fish above the value of people. This, and natural drought, recently forced the Bureau of Reclamation to announce that some farmers south of the Delta could receive no water from the Central Valley Project and nearby municipal and industrial users could receive only enough to meet health and safety minimum requirements.

The consequences of this situation are staggering. According to research by the University of California-Davis, the economy of California will potentially lose 75,000 jobs and more than \$2 billion. Unemployment is skyrocketing in the San Joaquin Valley well into the double digits and at an extreme 40 percent in the Westside.

We cannot sit idly by while the fragile economy in California is destroyed, when there are simple actions we can take to provide relief. Passing H.R. 856 is a simple step you can take to provide much needed relief and water to the citizens of California.

The time to act is now. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



George Radanovich
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nick Rahall
The Honorable Doc Hastings
The Honorable Ken Calvert
The Honorable Dennis Cardoza
The Honorable Devin Nunes
The Honorable Duncan D. Hunter
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
The Honorable David Dreier
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy