



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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February 18, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman
United States House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Huffman:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to express our support for the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act. This important legislation would help protect precious water resources while providing communities in California and throughout the West with tools to become more drought resilient and better prepared for the increasingly acute effects of climate change.

As you're well aware, Humboldt County is home to abundant water resources, including federally recognized wild and scenic rivers, numerous creeks, rivers and lakes, Humboldt Bay, and 110 miles of ocean frontage. These water bodies provide habitat for numerous fish populations, including a number of threatened and endangered species.

Unfortunately, the water resources within our County, as well as in other areas of our state, are often oversubscribed and severely stressed due to, among other things, the ongoing impacts of climate change, drought, and the consistently high demand for water exports. Given the longstanding water supply challenges facing California, we strongly support provisions of your bill that would help communities develop more resilient water infrastructure, expand the use of modern water management tools and technologies, and assist disadvantaged areas in meeting their water needs. By helping regions better achieve water self-sufficiency through recycling, storage, desalination, and water-use efficiency measures, your legislation would go a long way toward reducing the need for water exports.

We also strongly support provisions of the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act that would require federal agencies to develop proactive plans to sustain the survival of commercially and recreationally important fisheries and listed fish during future droughts. Likewise, we applaud the bill's authorized funding for fish, stream, and hatchery activities related to fish recovery efforts.


As you're aware, illegal water diversions for use in cannabis cultivation continues to threaten the

health of Humboldt County water bodies. While the County partners with other agencies to ensure that cannabis cultivators go through the appropriate process when permitting their operations, there are not enough funds to prevent operators from illegally drawing on these natural resources. Accordingly, we support language in your bill that directs the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the EPA to develop a plan to address illegal water diversions for cannabis cultivation, along with the legislation's funding mechanism to assist states, localities, and tribes in dealing with the remediation of trespass grows.

Finally, Humboldt County's small rural communities are in need of financial assistance to maintain or upgrade water supply and wastewater systems. Many systems are approaching the end of their useful life and require levels of capital investment that exceed rate-payers' ability to pay. In the worst cases, failing systems pose serious health risks, degrade water quality, prevent economic development and trigger regulatory violations and financial penalties. To address this challenge, we strongly support provisions of your bill that would authorize increased federal resources for small community water and wastewater projects.

As always, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors appreciates your strong leadership on these issues and we're pleased to endorse the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act. If you have any questions or if you need additional information, please contact Joe Krahn, Humboldt County Washington Representative, at 202-898-1444.

Sincerely,



Amy S. Nilsen
Humboldt County Administrative Officer

cc: Senator Kamala Harris
Senator Dianne Feinstein
National Association of Counties
California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California