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**Ricardo Ortega**  
General Manager

**Ellen Wehr**  
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December 14, 2024

Dear Members of the House Democratic Caucus,

On behalf of the Grassland Water District (GWD), a Central Valley Project refuge contractor that conveys water for habitat and wildlife purposes to state, federal and private wetlands in the Grassland Ecological Area (GEA) in Merced County that make up the largest contiguous freshwater complex west of the Rocky Mountains and encompass over 240,000 acres of habitat and wildlife beneficial agriculture, I write to express GWD's support for Congressman Huffman to assume the position of Ranking Member on the House Natural Resources Committee for the 119th Congress.

During his time in Congress, Congressman Huffman has promoted policies that reflect GWD's mission, which is to secure and manage a long-term water supply to preserve, enhance, and maintain one of the nation's most valuable wildlife resource areas, the largest remaining freshwater marsh habitat on the Pacific Flyway. Of note, Congressman Huffman has been a strong supporter of GWD's efforts to ensure that the GEA, one of the most important waterfowl habitat areas in the entire Pacific Flyway, has sufficient water to support migratory bird populations.

Given Congressman Huffman's dedication to conserving our nation's natural resources and his deep understanding of the natural resource challenges facing wetlands ecosystems and waterfowl populations across the country, GWD believes Congressman Huffman possesses the qualifications and leadership abilities to assume the role of Ranking Member.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to ensure the House Natural Resources Committee will have a Ranking Member ready to protect, conserve, and fight for America's wetlands and waterfowl population.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Ortega  
General Manager  
Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs