

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio,
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves,
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva,
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop,
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen DeFazio and Grijalva and Ranking Members Graves and Bishop:

Thank you for your leadership on infrastructure issues. As Congress considers an infrastructure package, we urge you to address the water infrastructure needs of California's Central Valley. We welcome the opportunity to work with you on these critical issues.

The Central Valley's water infrastructure system provides many vital services: supplying over half of our nation's fruits, nuts, and vegetables; providing clean water for over 6.5 million people; managing devastating floods; and preserving the health and habitat of fish and wildlife across iconic working landscapes.

The Central Valley's water infrastructure is aged and has not kept pace with our state's growing population and changing climate. As a result, our infrastructure is unfit to withstand the impacts of increasingly severe droughts, floods, and wildfires, which strain local resources and pose a public safety concern for the farmers, families, and water users across the state.

In 2012, the American Society of Civil Engineers graded the state's levee and flood control a D, and urban runoff infrastructure and programs a D+. These ratings are simply unacceptable. Water infrastructure not only provides a safe and reliable water supply, but also helps generate jobs and contribute to the local and national economy. Now more than ever, we must invest in a comprehensive infrastructure package that includes much-needed improvements to our water infrastructure and helps meet the current and future needs of the Central Valley, by:

and national economy. Now more than ever, we must invest in a comprehensive infrastructure package that includes much-needed improvements to our water infrastructure, and helps meet the current and future needs of the Central Valley, by:

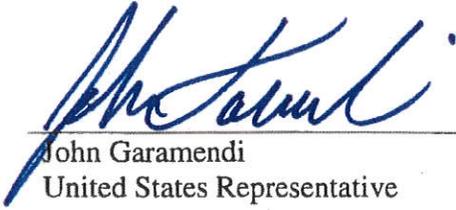
- Encouraging the development of climate-resilient technologies that can withstand the impacts of severe droughts, floods, and wildfires;
- Supporting many water infrastructure projects authorized in the Water Infrastructure and Improvements for the Nation Act (P.L. 114-322), including much needed surface and groundwater storage projects, water recycling projects, and desalination projects;
- Investing in programs that support the development, management, and improvement of water projects, such as the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Civil Works program, which focuses on flood risk management, navigation, recreation, and environmental projects as well as the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program, which focuses on water conservation, reuse, and planning projects;
- Expanding federal financing for new water projects by reauthorizing and expanding the Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and enacting the Reclamation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (RIFIA), providing low-interest, low-cost loans to help incentivize new water projects;
- Funding federal programs that provide states with the financial support to encourage water infrastructure projects and projects that improve water quality standards, such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF); and
- Reauthorizing the Rural Water Supply Act (P.L. 109-451), which allows the Bureau of Reclamation to assist rural communities by assessing and addressing their potable water supply needs.

We look forward to working with you to develop a comprehensive infrastructure package that reflects the Central Valley's water infrastructure needs. Thank you again for your attention to these issues and your leadership.

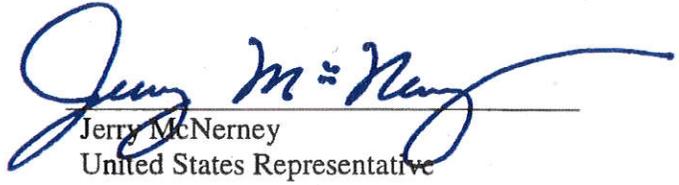
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Josh Harder
United States Representative



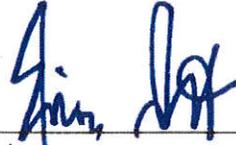
John Garamendi
United States Representative



Jerry McNerney
United States Representative



TJ Cox
United States Representative



Jim Costa
United States Representative