

American Rivers ♦ The Bay Institute ♦ California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
Central Delta Water Agency ♦ Defenders of Wildlife ♦ Earthjustice
Endangered Species Coalition ♦ Environmental Defense Fund
League of Conservation Voters ♦ National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council ♦ Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Save Our Wild Salmon ♦ Sierra Club ♦ The Wilderness Society ♦ Trout Unlimited
WildEarth Guardians

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the millions of Americans we represent, we urge you to join Senator Dianne Feinstein in opposing amendment #2500 to H.R. 2996, the FY 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill offered by Senator DeMint. If enacted, it would eliminate protections that thousands of fishing jobs in California depend on.

Senator DeMint's amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill would eliminate environmental protections in California's Bay-Delta estuary, the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas. For the past two years, California's salmon fishery has been shut down due to the complete collapse of Central Valley salmon populations. This has cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of lost jobs each year. The livelihoods of commercial fishermen, tackle manufacturers, delta farmers, fishing guides, and communities across California depend on the environmental protections that Senator DeMint's amendment would eliminate. After three years of drought, fallowed fields and endangered salmon species are symptoms, not the cause, of California's water woes.

We urge you to vote NO on Senator DeMint's amendment #2500.

Sincerely,

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