



November 12, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0504

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0505

Senators Feinstein and Boxer,

First and foremost, thank you for championing federal drought legislation that is very much needed to help affected communities and species. Your bill, S.1894 – the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2015 – would make great strides in managing limited water resources and offering balanced solutions. In particular, we are encouraged to see state and federal protections for salmon would remain in place and a program to mitigate stressors on the four salmon runs. Nonetheless, there are provisions that wrongfully villainize other important sportfish species that we hope will be removed from the bill.

The American Sportfishing Association is the nation's recreational fishing trade association. We care about healthy, abundant salmon and other sportfish as they are the foundation of 36,000 jobs and \$4.6 billion in annual economic impact in California. There are also 1.7 million anglers in the state that fish in fresh and saltwater. A number of species of sportfish, like striped bass and black bass, have coexisted with salmon for over 100 years without issue. Yet S. 1894 identifies these species as a threat and seeks to extirpate them. Predators are a natural part of the ecosystem and can be controlled through sound management practices. The true challenge for the recovery of healthy salmon stocks is water management.

Working with our California sportfishing partners, such as the Golden Gate Salmon Association, we urge you to consider specific strategies, projects, and recommendations to save salmon described in the attachment.

Thank you again for your leadership and your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Scott Gudes
Vice President of Government Affairs

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Maria Cantwell

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