

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
WATER ASSOCIATION,  
Sacramento, CA, October 2, 2009.

Re Support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

NCWA was formed in 1992 to present a unified voice working to resolve California's water issues and protect the water rights and supplies of the diverse Northern California region, now and into the future. NCWA represents 54 agricultural water districts and agencies, private water companies, and individual water rights holders with rights and entitlements to the surface waters and groundwater resources of the Sacramento Valley. Many of our members can and will actively participate in this water transfer program. The language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

DONN ZEA,  
President and CEO.

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY,  
Willows, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a programmatic program to promote and manage water transfers in California, including the Sacramento Valley. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater regulatory certainty for the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies for water users.

As you are aware, the TCCA is intimately aware of the impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of below average precipitation and regulatory requirements placed upon the CVP and its water users through the requirements established by the recent National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions for endangered

salmon. Your legislation will provide much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

Many of our members have participated in water transfer programs in the past and would continue under this legislation in a more flexible manner. Also, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY SUTTON,  
General Manager.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,  
Los Angeles, CA, October 5, 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is pleased to support the legislation you are introducing related to water transfers for the Central Valley Project (CVP). This legislation will help provide good water management while providing flexibility for CVP customers.

As a regional wholesale water provider, Metropolitan provides water for nearly 19 million people throughout our six-county service area in Southern California. As Metropolitan and the entire state continue to address water supply challenges throughout California, the vitality of our economy and environment has been seriously affected. Your proposed legislation will help address these critically important issues.

Please let me know if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY KIGHTLINGER,  
General Manager.

#### GOVERNOR OF UTAH EXPRESSES CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letter from the governor of Utah:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.

DEAR SENATOR BENNETT, as Governor of the State of Utah, I am aware of the critical

importance of health system reform in our country. However, I believe the best place for innovation and policy change is in the individual states, as we have a greater understanding of the specific needs of our citizens. This effort is already underway in Utah, with great success. I am worried, however, that the direction of the current language of federal health system reform bills will preclude state-directed reform and place a detrimental burden on states' budgets. Therefore, I am contacting you in order to forge a partnership to enact reform that will benefit not only the citizens of Utah, but will benefit everyone throughout our great country.

In Utah, we have a good system of public medical programs that provide for our neediest population. However, the weight of the current programs strains our state budget. So far, we have managed to fully fund the existing programs, although it becomes more challenging each year. The extension of Medicaid to additional populations, as discussed in proposed federal healthcare legislation, will amount to an unfunded mandate that would create financial havoc for our state.

While I understand the idea that everyone must "share in the pain," and appreciate the Administration's commitment to reforming healthcare without increasing the size of the federal deficit, to force Medicaid cost increases onto states will simply shift massive cost increases to the states. As I am sure you know, Utah, like most other states, is suffering from the negative impacts of a nationwide recession. As we prepare the state's fiscal year 2011 budget, we face continued cuts to agency budgets and reduced government services on top of painful reductions made last year. The unfunded mandate of a forced Medicaid expansion will only exacerbate an already dire situation. If required to increase our Medicaid program as envisioned in Washington, Utah, and most every other state, will be forced to find the money to do so through other means. This will require states to either raise taxes or continue to cut budgets in areas currently suffering from a lack of funding, such as public and higher education. We must work together to ensure that no new requirements for states to fund health care for additional populations pass.

This does not mean, however, that the State is ignoring or has forgotten about middle-income uninsured families in Utah. Quite the contrary, the aggressive health system reform being pursued in Utah is designed to address the healthcare needs of those families in a manner that does not shift additional burden to the State.

As mentioned above, Utah has made remarkable progress toward health system reform. One of the cornerstones of our State's efforts is the introduction of a defined contribution health benefit system and implementation of the Utah Health Exchange, which provides the technology to make that market work. This new market approach is proving to be very popular. In fact, in just nine days, following the official launch of the Utah Health Exchange, 136 of Utah's small businesses signed up to contribute to health care coverage for their employees, representing approximately 7,000 covered lives.

It is essential that federal legislation not derail this promising effort to provide insurance in a new way to Utah's small business employees, who are the backbone of our economy. When fully implemented, the Exchange will help individuals and employees access the information they need to make informed choices about their health and health care, as well as their health insurance. This tool has a standardized application process and allows people to apply for a broad range of coverage electronically; which further increases access to affordable coverage.

To me, the highlight of the Exchange is that it is almost entirely run by the private sector. The State brought together a technology company, a finance company, and many different insurers who have worked out the necessary details to provide a platform for this new marketplace. We were able to go from a signed bill to a functioning exchange in just five months. This is the very definition of forging unprecedented partnerships to find solutions that government alone cannot provide. The driving force behind any proposed exchange must continue to be private sector ingenuity, with government assisting in the appropriate ways.

I look forward to working with you in a similar manner to ensure that federal and state healthcare reforms are compatible and will result in success for the citizens of our great State. I believe that together we can develop workable alternatives to the traditional Washington D.C. "one-size-fits-all" solution. We must continue to recognize that states are the laboratories of innovation and that the best solution to our nation's challenges is to empower states to serve their unique populations in the best ways possible.

Please contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance with this very important issue.

Best Regards,

GARY R. HERBERT,  
Governor, Utah.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
ZACHARY J. RHYNER, USO AIR-  
MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Staff Sergeant Zachary J. Rhyner's distinguished service in the United States Air Force, and to congratulate him on being named USO Airman of the Year. Staff Sergeant Rhyner's extraordinary heroism in Shok Valley, Afghanistan on April 6, 2008 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom is a testament to his training, character, and personal strength.

While conducting an air assault infiltration as Special Tactics Combat Controller, Sergeant Rhyner and his team were caught in an ambush. Intense sniper, machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire rained down on the team from a well-trained insurgent force. Sergeant Rhyner was shot once in his left leg and struck twice in his chest. Although wounded, Sergeant Rhyner stayed calm and called in more than 50 air strikes and strafing gun runs. He placed himself between enemy forces and his men several times in order to return fire and to allow his teammates to retrieve the critically wounded and the deceased. He has been recognized for his heroism several times. In addition to being named USO Airman of the Year today, he received the Air Force Cross, the service's second highest medal for valor, on March 10, 2009. He also received a Purple Heart and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs Grateful Nation Award.

Staff Sergeant Rhyner is based at Pope Air Force Base, in North Carolina's Second District and lives in Harnett County, my home county. I am proud to have him as a fellow North Carolinian, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this honor and saluting his service.

HONORING SENATOR EDWARD  
KENNEDY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Edward Kennedy, who passed away August 25, 2009, at age 77. A leader in the Senate for over 46 years, Senator Kennedy dedicated his career to equality and justice for all.

Senator Kennedy believed that the fight for quality and affordable healthcare was the cause of his life and nothing less than a moral obligation for us all. His courageous commitment to improving the welfare of all people was inspirational to me and millions of Americans. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, he influenced nearly every piece of legislation that came before the Senate. Because of his deep concern for the treatment of mental health patients, he helped individuals suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders receive adequate coverage and prompted the growth of America's Community Mental Health Centers. Senator Kennedy was also committed to increasing access to health care for everyone. I wish he was with us long enough to see all his hard work come true.

Senator Kennedy was a compelling advocate for equal access to education for all children. His leadership was instrumental in expanding the Head Start Program and he devoted himself to improving teaching quality and equality across the country.

Senator Kennedy fought tirelessly to ensure all students who wished to obtain higher education were able to do so. During the 110th Congress, he helped enact the most substantial increase in student aid funding, making higher education more accessible and affordable to all.

Madam Speaker, Senator Kennedy was a shining example of what the very best public servants can aspire to become and his passion for helping others will live on through the lives he has touched. His legacy of hard work, compassion, and excellence will continue to impact America for generations to come.

HONORING ELDON ROTH

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eldon Roth, a celebrated and respected member of the agricultural community. I am privileged to be joined by the distinguished Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO in recognizing Mr. Roth. It is a remarkable day indeed when we can both wholeheartedly endorse the same objective.

Growing up in rural South Dakota, Eldon Roth learned the values of a strong work ethic and perseverance. Lacking access to electricity and running water in his home, he never allowed the limitations of sheer circumstance to hinder his pursuit for excellence. Eldon and his wife Regina, who is his business partner, started their business in San Francisco back

in the 1970s. A self-educated man who never accepted the status quo, Mr. Roth occupied his spare time by employing his understanding of mechanics to improve the efficiency of the meat freezing process.

This focus led him to working with stainless steel firms in the area to develop a large drum. His natural mechanical genius devised a way to liquefy the meat product at the lowest possible temperature. The FMI Roller Press Freezer, a huge piece of equipment, was a new concept for the continuous quick-freezing of ground meats and other similar consistency products. Through his work, the freezing process was trimmed from two days to a matter of mere minutes. It revolutionized the industry and standardized the quick-chill process that now assures high levels of food safety.

Over the years, Mr. Roth continued his innovating work and as a selfless man of integrity, he takes time to share his discoveries with other meat processors to protect consumer health. Mr. Roth has not only developed unique ways to increase the value of beef and pork, but he led a revolution in equipment design. By taking great pride in his work, Mr. Roth undoubtedly raised the bar in terms of excellence for the U.S. meat and poultry processing industry.

Today, the company Mr. Roth founded, Beef Products Inc. is the world's leading producer of boneless beef. Mr. Roth's impact in the market of beef and poultry has justly earned him multiple awards. BPI has built plants in Texas, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. He is a recipient of a 2008 Beef Industry Division award presented by the National Cattlemen's Foundation as well as the recipient of the 2007 E. Floyd Forbes Award, the highest honor from the National Meat Association.

Along with founding the world's leading producer of high-quality lean-beef trimmings, Mr. Roth made sure to give back to the local community. Last year, Mr. Roth organized an event in Sioux City, Iowa where he hosted a prime rib appreciation dinner Salute to the 185th Refueling Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard. He had about 1,500 Guardsmen with their families and guests to attend at the BPI aircraft hangar, and he and his company staff cooked hot roast beef for everyone! One of his special guests was Congressional Award winner Col. Bud Day, along with other local dignitaries.

Mr. Roth is known as a self-made man who possesses unequalled discipline, drive, and discernment. He is successfully building a legacy of generosity by giving back to the people of his own community. I am proud to stand here today, shoulder to shoulder with Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, to honor Eldon Roth of South Dakota.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall vote Numbers 758 to 760 on October 7, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall vote No. 758 I would have voted "yes."