



July 8, 2015

Representative David Valadao
1004 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

As you know, California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the entire United States, has been suffering from a nearly unprecedented drought, which has been exacerbated by a variety of federal regulations. For example, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. Cities in the Central Valley have run dry, relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water. Unfortunately, the negative consequences of the drought are being experienced in other states as well.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 2898, Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015. This bill would ensure reliable water deliveries for the valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. The bill also requires regulators to substantiate claims with scientific evidence. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Something must be done in response to the drought crisis and we are hopeful this legislation is the first step to addressing the water supply challenges we face in California and beyond. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 2898, Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Guenther". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Robert Guenther
Senior Vice President, Public Policy
United Fresh Produce Association