



NATIONAL CHICKEN COUNCIL

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March 1, 2012

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: The Sacramento San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act (H.R. 1837)

Dear Congressman Nunes:

Congratulations on your leadership in achieving U.S. House of Representatives approval of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act (H.R. 1837). Passage of this very important legislation by a favorable bipartisan margin signals a true milestone. The National Chicken Council is pleased to be part of the growing number of supporters for this reasonable and rational measure. U.S. animal agriculture producers, especially those in poultry, are facing a very critical time. Full production of all crops across the United States is necessary to hold-down food inflation, expand exports, and re-employ workers. It is not acceptable to have arbitrary and unnecessary government restrictions on the appropriate and prudent use of cropland in the Valley.

Implementation of this legislation would be a very positive step in beginning to bring some balance between the need to protect endangered species and the true need to have a strong, vibrant agricultural economy. Prohibiting the responsible and appropriate use of land and resources by using an extreme interpretation of the endangered species act should not be permitted to continue unchallenged and uncorrected. Government policies and programs have since 2006 mandated the over-use of corn to produce ethanol. This is the primary reason the U.S. chicken industry had in 2011 its worst financial year in decades. Although H.R. 1837 cannot by itself correct that misguided situation, allowing the Central Valley of California to once again produce agricultural commodities would be one positive step to begin to help offset certain government programs that are negatively impacting U.S. chicken producers/processors.

The National Chicken Council looks forward to working with you and other supporters of H.R. 1837 to accomplish the goal of correcting an injustice that has been allowed to persist for far too long.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Brown
President

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