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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**SOLANO
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February 14, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Representative Garamendi:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to thank you for introducing the *Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act* (S. 316 & H.R. 357). This important legislation, which Solano County is pleased to endorse, would designate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as California's very first National Heritage Area (NHA).

As you know, the Delta is a unique national treasure that must be protected. Unfortunately, the fragile ecosystem remains in crisis due to many factors, including invasive species, urban and agricultural run-off, water export operations, and other stressors. While the solution to the Delta's decline is complex and multifaceted, the establishment of a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Heritage Area would go a long way toward helping to preserve the valuable qualities of the Delta that are critical to our regional, state, and national economies.

Pursuant to your legislation, the Delta Protection Commission would serve as the local coordinating entity for the NHA, further empowering the commission to continue the important work of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the quality of the Delta environment. All told, the bill would authorize \$10 million over 10 years for local governments and nonprofit organizations to carry out programs and projects that protect and promote the cultural, historical, and natural assets of the region. Importantly, the legislation would ensure participation by all persons or entities that may have an interest in the NHA, including local governmental agencies, special districts, agricultural organizations, and private property owners.

Solano County appreciates that the legislation would offer an approach to conservation that would not compromise those local entities that have traditional land-use control over the Delta. Additionally, S. 316/H.R. 357 would have no effect on water rights or water contracts and would create no new regulatory authority or burden on local government or its citizens. Furthermore, the bill includes an "opt out" provision, which makes it clear that the NHA is a voluntary program. As a result, private property owners would be explicitly protected under the terms of the bill, as they would retain the right to opt out of any recommendations.

Again, the Solano County Board of Supervisors appreciates your ongoing support for the Delta region and we are pleased to endorse *Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Hannigan".
Erin Hannigan, Chairwoman
Solano County Board of SupervisorsCC: The Honorable Mike Thomson
The Honorable Kamala Harris
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Paragon Government Relations