

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2012

Honorable Mike Machado  
Executive Director  
Delta Protection Commission  
2101 Stone Blvd, Suite 210  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dear Executive Director Machado,

As the authors the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Establishment Act, we want to thank the Delta Protection Commission for the time and effort you have invested developing the recently released feasibility study of the proposed National Heritage Area. We appreciate the commission's work to help define the 'Delta as a Place' of national significance and remain committed to advancing this important legislation.

As the study notes, the Delta is a vast region with a rich history and numerous distinctive resources worthy of designation as a National Heritage Area. The study's extensive catalogue of these resources, including its historic and cultural sites, waterways, levees, habitat, and public and agricultural lands, provides compelling evidence to support the designation. Additionally, the study's suggested potential themes for the National Heritage Area reflect the Delta's unique development from marshland to a vital agricultural center and water junction for two-thirds of California's population.

We also appreciate the Commission's comments regarding the management of the National Heritage Area and its proposed boundary. Consistent with our legislation, we agree with your recommendation that the Delta Protection Commission should serve as the management entity and commend you for developing a list of potential partners to help plan and collectively manage the National Heritage Area. We were also pleased to see that the Commission recommended boundaries consistent with the legislation along with addition of the City of Rio Vista, which has expressed a strong desire to be included within the National Heritage Area. We are happy to support your recommendation and will work to amend the boundary map at the appropriate time as the bill moves through the legislative process.

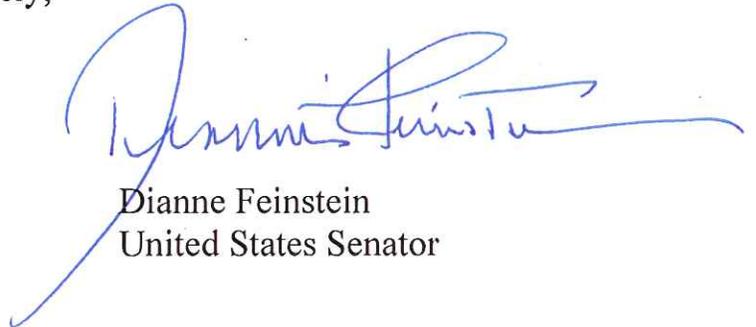
Furthermore, we were impressed by the efforts the Commission took to engage in a public dialogue. As we continue the process to establish a National Heritage Area, it is vital that the Commission continues to reach out to stakeholders throughout the Delta, including landowners, farmers, fishermen and local businesses. Through dialogue and cooperation with others, the Commission can work to ensure a National Heritage Area benefits all of the Delta's diverse interests.

Once again, we thank you for your work and dedication to the Delta. We look forward to working with the Commission as it works to preserve and promote the Delta. As we continue to advocate for the establishment of a National Heritage Area in Congress, we look forward to working with you to ensure our legislation is consistent with the recommendations provided in this study.

Sincerely,



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator