

November 25, 2020

Senator Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for the PUBLIC Lands Act (S.3288)

Dear Senators Harris and Feinstein:

We are writing in strong support of the landscape protections cataloged in the *Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act (S. 3288)*. This bill contains three previously passed bills by the House of Representatives (*H.R. 2215, 2199, 2250*), focused on protections, investments, and access for over 1 million acres of California's federal public lands in the San Gabriel Mountains, Central Coast, and Northern California's mountains and rivers. We were pleased to see these priorities incorporated into the *Protecting America's Wilderness Act (PAWA; H.R. 2546)*, and later amended into the *William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA; H.R. 6395)* by H.Amdt.837. The House and Senate Armed Services Committees must protect these amazing landscapes, and we need your leadership and support to make it happen.

The landscapes represented in this effort will protect over 500 miles of new Wild and Scenic rivers throughout Northwest California, on the Central Coast, and in the Los Angeles area. As representatives of the angling business community and outdoor industry, we recognize first-hand the positive environmental, economic, and public health impact that the protections of these landscapes will have across our state.

California's mountains and rivers are undoubtedly among of our nation's most precious gems, cradling our state's endangered and threatened wildlife. By designating more wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers, protecting these landscapes will in turn protect critically important salmon and steelhead trout, bird, native plant, and bear habitat. Additionally, this would simultaneously restore the health of forests and rivers, thus reducing the risk of wildfires, improve access to areas for fishing, hiking, and other outdoor recreational activities, and conserve the cultural and natural resources for future generations.

Likewise, these areas serve as an important economic cradle. In a time when local economies have been ravaged by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, protecting these public lands will provide a much needed investment in outdoor recreation industries such as ours, often times the lifeblood of our local, mostly rural economies. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, each year California's outdoor recreation economy generates \$92 billion in consumer spending and 691,000 million jobs. From fishing guides, to lodges, local gear shops,

restaurants, and other small businesses, tourism and outdoor recreation are huge economic drivers and job creators. Healthy rivers and public access to outdoor spaces are absolutely vital to the health and survival of our industry. By protecting public lands and rivers up and down the state, the bill will support this important economic engine that so many communities rely upon.

And let's not forget the proven mental and physical benefits of spending time in nature. As Californians seek more time outdoors as a way to heal from the COVID-19 crisis, public lands and rivers will play an increasingly important role in public health. Protecting these special places supports public health by expanding public lands protections and increasing opportunities to spend time outdoors.

At a time when outdoor spaces have proven to be essential for the health of Californians, it is crucial that we focus on protecting and ensuring safe and equitable access to our biodiverse public lands. Protecting these landscapes will benefit fish and wildlife habitat and other critical ecosystems, as well as the outdoor and recreational industry, financially and otherwise, due to increased and equitable outdoor access. This public health pandemic has highlighted the importance of investing in our public lands for our economic recovery, and our present and future communities' wellbeing.

We appreciate your continued hard work during these times. We urge you to take a leadership position on protecting these landscapes by expressing your support of the PAWA amendment (H.Amdt.837) to the NDAA to the House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Curtis Knight, California Trout

Matt Millette, Patagonia

Tag Kleiner, Far Bank Enterprises (Sage, Redington, RIO, Fly Water Travel)

Alexandria Karnazes, Eventus Outdoors

Andrew Hoodenpyle, Hoody Fly Fishing

Andrew Rossow, Andrew Rossow Fly Fishing

Anthony Carruesco, AC Fly Fishing

Brooks Provence, Brooks Provence Fly Fishing

Colton Schwenning, Colton Schwenning Fly Fishing

Don and Julia Ellis, Strawhouse Resorts & Café

George Revel, Lost Coast Outfitters

John Fochetti, John Fochetti Fly Fishing

John Rickard, Wild Waters Fly Fishing

Kory Van Tassel, The Fly Stop

Matt Heron, Matt Heron FlyFishing

Max Garrison, Garrison Fishing Guides

Michele Titus, Clearwater Lodge

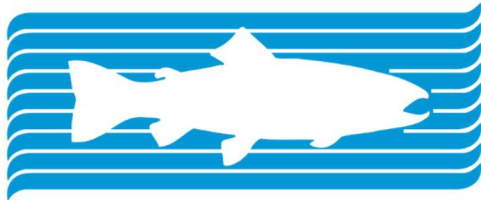
Rick Anderson, Fly Fishing Specialties

Ryan Avezzi, Avezzi Fly Fishing

Simon Gawesworth, Speyborn LLC

Val Atkinson, Val Atkinson Photography

CALIFORNIA TROUT



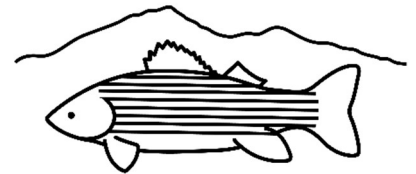
FISH · WATER · PEOPLE



FAR BANK



MATTHERON
FLY FISHING
TRUCKEE, CA.



GARRISON FISHING GUIDES
MARIN COUNTY, CA

SPEYBORN



R. Valentine Atkinson

CLEARWATER LODGE
AT THE PIT RIVER