



United States Senate

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

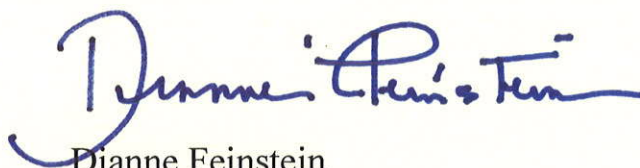
I write in strong opposition to a provision in the House Appropriations bill on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies that would waive or preempt all federal and state laws and any judicial review to declare approval of the proposed twin tunnel project known as California WaterFix.

A project as divisive and complex as the \$17 billion WaterFix should only proceed subject to the full scrutiny of our state and federal laws and our established institutions, including review by independent judges. Water is the lifeblood of California, and for a project that will determine our water future, we must not cast aside all the rules at the last minute to the advantage of some and to the detriment of others.

The WaterFix is an extraordinarily complex undertaking, and many aspects of its construction and operation have provoked great debate. Three giant intakes, each $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long, would draw water from the Sacramento River into two tunnels, each 40 feet in diameter, running 35 miles beneath the length of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The tunnels would be accessed by 15 shafts of at least 100 feet in diameter descending 150 feet underground. The fundamental questions about this project are many: Will the project help or hurt our endangered salmon and smelt? Is it designed to withstand the inevitable earthquakes? What will be its true cost and water supply impact? Are there sufficient protections for those who worry about the impact to their water supply or water quality?

These are important questions with a profound impact on the future of my State, and the answers of the project's proponents should be tested to the full standards of our environmental laws, and by our independent judiciary. I urge you to reject the provision that would waive all federal and state laws for the WaterFix.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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