

PANOCHÉ WATER DISTRICT

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July 13, 2021

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Chairman
The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: *Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act (H.R. 3764)*

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

On behalf of Panoche Water District, I write to express our concern with Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act (H.R. 3764) as drafted and the adverse impact it would have on Western agriculture and water management, including here in California where much of the nation's fruits, nuts, and vegetables are grown. While H.R. 3764 appears well-intended legislation, if passed and signed into law as written, among other things, the bill would lay a foundation for restricting inland and upland activities deemed to affect newly designated ocean and coastal protected areas. In short, enactment of this bill would cost jobs, thwart economic growth, and add tremendous regulatory uncertainty to Western agricultural and water management activities.

On June 22, 2021, Mr. Mauricio Guardado testified remotely before your committee representing the Family Farm Alliance and United Water Conservation District. We echo the concerns he raised in his [written testimony](#), that this bill would dramatically increase the role of federal agencies on inland rivers and adjacent lands, and result in more limited resources being lost to increased bureaucratic burden. Rather, we believe Congress should focus instead on finding ways to provide federal agencies with more flexibility under environmental laws and water management regulations to respond to drought conditions, like the unprecedented drought disaster we are now confronting in California, and across the West.

For the reasons stated above, Panoche Water District respectfully requests that Committee Members vote NO on H.R. 3764, as drafted, and that your constructive work with the Family Farm Alliance and United Water Conservation District continue towards a mutually acceptable outcome. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Ara Azhderian
General Manager