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Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Dianne,

I hope all is well with you and your family and that you had a nice holiday season. It has been some time since we have had a frank discussion regarding water supplies. It seems that we are always too busy to actually discuss the issue, so I'm writing to you today with much passion in my heart.

Yesterday, I had the unfortunate and distasteful task of informing our (Westlands) farmers that they will, in all likelihood, receive no water allocation from the CVP for the 2009 crop year. In preparing for the explanation of and the reasons for this disaster, I can only come to one glaring conclusion. There was and is **"A colossal failure of political leadership"** in California and in our Country as a whole. There is plenty of blame to go around, but the brutal truth is that there is simply no political will to make tough decisions.

It is true that we are experiencing a drought in California, but this is only the final nail in the coffin for California water users. Drought is a fact of Nature and is something to be expected from time to time. A drought is something that we can and do plan for. This is why the past political powers of California had the vision and determination to construct the infrastructure that made California a once great state. However, there is absolutely no excuse for today's abandonment of common sense for political expediency that is so pervasive in today's political environment. Our current political system has bankrupted this once great state by allowing runaway environmental regulations along with a failure to invest in water system infrastructure to completely destroy California's economic engine. It is not a question of farming or business versus fish, wildlife or the environment. It is a question of how to provide a solution without bankrupting the state or country. The solutions are there but no one has the will to make tough decisions, thus the **"failure of political leadership"**.

In preparing to give the grim news to my constituents, I remembered that I warned you of this very possibility some 10 years ago. I don't want to say I told you this would happen, but the fact remains that I did. You may not remember our meetings, so I've attached a few letters for your review. In the spring of 1999, I visited you in Washington and presented a series of charts that showed what was happening to the water supplies and deliveries based on newly imposed environmental regulations. On June 28, 1999, you sent the attached letter to Secretary Babbitt. On July 6 we met in your San Francisco office, where I was essentially called a liar and accused of exaggerating the problem. On July 12, 1999, I sent you the attached letter. The second paragraph pretty much says it all. You responded to me with the attached letter dated September 9, 1999. You were sufficiently alarmed at the time to request an investigation of my claims. Despite the official findings to the contrary by David Hayes, the fact remains that I was personally attacked by high level officials at Interior who were trying to discredit me in your eyes. I was right. They were wrong. Facts don't lie, people do.

The point of all of this is to simply say, all of the warning signs were ignored by everyone. Again, facts don't lie and neither did I. We are now in the exact position that I predicted we would be in. The problem we now face is a disaster of unimaginable proportions, and as is true with all disasters, they occur at the most inopportune time. You now have a situation where millions of acres of prime farmland are out of water costing billions in economic value and huge job losses. You are about to see an additional 23 million people in southern California face a similar situation, and your hometown will be there soon. All of this was predicted and preventable, had there only been some leadership.

Dianne, I watched with great interest your speech on the floor of the Senate promoting the proposed stimulus package passed by the House. Something that you said caught my attention. You said that the reason Senators are elected for 6 year terms was so they can make tough decisions without facing immediate political consequences even when 85 % of their constituency is against such a proposal. In looking through this proposal, I have a hard time seeing what is going to stimulate job growth, thus stimulating the economy. It simply appears to be a giant giveaway to social programs, none of which create jobs. I also failed to identify any meaningful investments in water infrastructure even though those investments would yield huge dividends for the economy and the nation. One only needs to look to previous generations' investments in similar projects to see the jobs and economies they create.

It seems to me that a better and quicker way to stimulate the California economy is to stop further job losses from occurring. An excellent example that comes to mind is the 40,000 new job losses that will occur shortly due to the lack of water. It also seems that there need to be some tough decisions made about California water and delta issues, which up to now no one has been willing to make. For the good of all involved, decisions need to be made now. Putting these decisions off until tomorrow is not only irresponsible but simply too late to be of any value in dealing with this current crisis.

The President and Governor must declare a state of emergency for California. Water must start flowing again immediately or you will lose those additional 40,000 jobs from the Agricultural

sector over the next few months. You will also lose many more thousands of jobs from other California businesses if this situation is not corrected immediately. You will also see a dramatic loss in domestic food production capabilities, requiring the nation to become still further dependent on foreign food sources, which raises the issue beyond just the economy to one of national security. There is simply no time to waste.

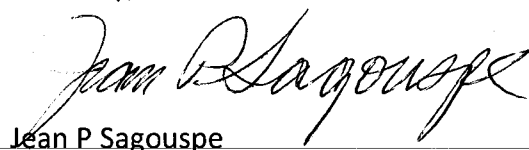
Quite frankly, I have little hope for our future, because no one in leadership from either party will deal with these problems. Rome burns while we talk about who caused the problem, but the fact of the matter is, these problems are the same ones that I identified 10 years ago. However, they are much worse today, because they were not dealt with when they were exposed. Burying one's head in the sand is no longer an option.

Many of us will not survive this disaster. The infrastructure that made us great is in a shambles. California was once considered the bread basket of the world and the greatest state in the union. Tomorrow, California will be little more than a third world country. Businesses are leaving as fast as they can and there is little wonder why. I have already moved half of my assets out of California, and if I could move my almond orchards out of state, I would. You see Dianne; I have lost all confidence that our political leadership will address the real issues facing this country. It's really sad and unfortunate that we cannot open our eyes to the reality of "what is", not what someone thinks "what should be". The "what is" without immediate action indicates that there will be no "what should be"

In closing, I'd like to thank you for reading this. You may not be hearing from me much longer, as I may be one of the ones that do not survive. Just remember that inaction is no longer an option. Tough choices need to be made and they need to be made now or the social fabric of our being and our way of life will be gone. We don't need or want a bailout. What we do want is the freedom to make a living without unreasonable government interference. Please keep in mind that agriculture is about the only sector of the economy not looking for a handout; we are simply looking for a chance to succeed at what we do best, providing jobs, and abundant quality food at affordable prices for everyone to share in.

Dianne, only someone like you can accomplish this major task. I just hope that you don't wait too long to forcefully weigh in. What a legacy it would be for you to lead the effort that puts California back on a path toward prosperity. It wasn't that long ago when California led the nation in education, innovation, infrastructure development and prosperity. With your leadership, greatness is once again attainable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean P. Sagouspe". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Jean P Sagouspe