

To this end and without reservation, I strongly believe that Mr. Urenda will be a wonderful and positive addition to our community. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

KRISTINA MOLINA,  
*Latina Outreach Coordinator.*

THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF  
CALIFORNIA,  
*San Francisco, CA, July 22, 2009.*

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*San Francisco, CA.*

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: On behalf of the Women's Foundation of California, we are writing to convey our support for Javier Urenda to remain in the United States and become a lawful permanent resident.

Javier is a vital member of his community who participates at all levels: he is a hard-working and dedicated employee of FullBloom Baking Company, a Newark, California based company which did \$58 million in business last year; he is a devoted husband and father to three US citizen children; and he is an important role model to community members and co-workers. Javier was the second person hired by FullBloom and has helped grow FullBloom to a company which now has 388 employees. Javier's dedication, technical know-how and effective management abilities have been critical to FullBloom's success. The local community has been well served by FullBloom, which provides employment, health benefits and educational opportunities to its employees and their children. Javier's community would also be severely impacted if it were to lose his volunteer efforts in his children's schools and his tireless fundraising for charity.

The Women's Foundation of California has a long history of supporting immigrants and immigrant communities throughout the state. Through our research, grantmaking, and other programs, we have seen many of the benefits that new Americans give to our economy, society, and our overall infrastructure. The state's economy would suffer tremendously without the incredible achievements of immigrants.

Javier has recently received an approved labor certification (which had been pending for nearly three years) and is now eligible for adjustment of status. However, he has been issued a "surrender notice" which takes effect on July 29, 2009. If he is forced to leave the country, he would be barred from returning for 10 years causing his children and his employer enormous hardship. If Javier were granted a stay of his deportation order, he could adjust status immediately and be a lawful permanent resident.

We understand that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has established immigration policy to meet the needs of this country and others. Javier Urenda is fulfilling tremendous needs within his community. He is a model participant in this society and deserves to remain here legally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JUDY PATRICK,  
*President and CEO.*

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1748. A bill to establish a program of research, recovery, and other activities to provide for the recovery of the southern sea otter; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the introduction of the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act.

The southern sea otter is a keystone species that plays a critical role in central California's kelp forest ecosystem. By maintaining a healthy and productive ecosystem capable of supporting many other marine species, they also contribute to California's \$22 billion ocean tourism, recreation, and fishing industries.

Already listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, southern sea otters recently experienced their largest population decline in over a decade. They face a variety of threats, including food limitation, disease, and habitat degradation—but the exact causes of their decline are unknown.

Sea otters are a sentinel species that serve as an indicator of ecosystem health, so this population decline is extremely alarming. Understanding and addressing the causes of this decline would help us protect the health of our kelp ecosystems as a whole.

My legislation would require the Department of the Interior to monitor the population of southern sea otters and assess the major factors limiting their recovery. It would also establish a competitive grant program for research and recovery projects.

The language has been drafted in consultation with numerous scientists, agency officials, conservation groups, and fishermen. Companion legislation was reported by the House Natural Resources Committee by voice vote in May, and passed the full House of Representatives in July. I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve a successful outcome in the Senate.

With this legislation, we can finally put the southern sea otter on a path to recovery—and restore central California's magnificent kelp forests to a healthy, thriving condition.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 297—TO RECOGNIZE THE DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE AS A UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS ECOSYSTEM

Mr. WEBB submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 297

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on the west bank of the Potomac River just south of Alexandria in Fairfax County is one of the largest remaining freshwater tidal marshes in the Greater Washington, DC, area;

Whereas Congress expressly designated the Dyke Marsh ecosystem for protection in 1959, fifty years ago, under Public Law 86-41 "so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount";

Whereas the Honorable JOHN D. DINGELL of Michigan, the late Honorable John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania, and the late Honorable Henry S. Reuss of Wisconsin were instrumental in passing this legislation and in preventing proposed development along the Potomac River, thereby protecting the Dyke Marsh ecosystem from further dredging, fill-

ing, and other activities incompatible with a preserve;

Whereas Dyke Marsh is 5,000 to 7,000 years old and is a unique natural treasure in the national capital region, with more than 6,500 species of plants, insects, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians contained within an approximately 485-acre parcel;

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is a significant element in the historic character of the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway;

Whereas freshwater tidal marshes are rare, and the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is one of the few climax, tidal, riverine, narrow-leaved cattail wetlands in the United States National Park Service system;

Whereas wetlands provide ecological services such as flood control, attenuation of tidal energy, water quality enhancement, wildlife habitat, nursery and spawning grounds, and recreational and aesthetic enjoyment;

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve serves as an outdoor laboratory for scientists, educators, students, naturalists, artists, photographers, and others, attracting people of all ages; and

Whereas the Friends of Dyke Marsh is a conservation advocacy group created in 1975 and dedicated to the preservation and restoration of this wetland habitat and its natural resources: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve of Fairfax County, Virginia, as a unique and precious ecosystem that serves as an invaluable natural resource both locally and nationally;

(2) recognizes and expresses appreciation for Representative JOHN DINGELL's, Representative John Saylor's, and Representative Henry Reuss's leadership in preserving this precious natural resource;

(3) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Federal legislation designating the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve as a protected wetland habitat;

(4) expresses the need to continue to conserve, protect and restore this fragile habitat, in which a diverse array of plants, animals and other natural resources is threatened by past dredging and filling, a gradual depletion in size, urban and suburban development, river traffic, stormwater runoff, poaching, and non-native invasive species; and

(5) commends the Friends of Dyke Marsh for its longstanding commitment to promoting conservation and environmental awareness and stewardship, so that the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve may be enjoyed by generations for the next 50 years and into the future.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 298—RECOGNIZING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN OCTOBER 2009

Mr. REID (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. MENENDEZ), submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 298

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California, on board the Manila-built galleon ship Nuestra Señora de Esperanza;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes the year of 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana, which set in motion the focus on