

including water transfers. Moreover, the need to transfer water is often urgent and in response to climactic conditions that are frequently sporadic and ephemeral. Regrettably, bureaucratic process can unnecessarily thwart successful execution of a transfer and the best management of this all too precious resource. The clarity your legislation brings to existing authorizations will only improve the capability of water managers throughout the State to effectively respond to the ongoing crisis and put our scant water resources to use even more efficiently.

The Westside of the great San Joaquin Valley is invariably the most transfer dependent region of the State. Your efforts to address this important matter as well as your vast knowledge of and longstanding commitment to water resource issues vital to the State are most deeply appreciated. If there is anything I can do to be of further service to you in this cause, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

DANIEL G. NELSON,  
*Executive Director.*

GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT,  
*Willows, CA, October 2, 2009.*

Re Support for water transfer legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of 3 years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

GCID is the largest and one of the oldest diverters of water from the Sacramento River, dating back to 1880. As a senior water right holder and CVP Sacramento River Settlement Contractor, we believe we can and will actively participate in this water transfer program. The language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

THADDEUS L. BETTNER,  
*General Manager.*

BANTA-CARBONA IRRIGATION DISTRICT,  
*Tracy, CA, October 2, 2009.*  
Re Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*Hart Senate Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. DENNIS CARDOZA,  
*Longworth Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. JIM COSTA,  
*Longworth House Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR HONORABLE PUBLIC SERVANTS: We encourage you to pass this proposed bill as it can only help Californians best use the waters within the state. It is a waste of storage and conveyance systems to limit the uses of these facilities to strictly one brand of water, ie. CVP water. When facilities can be used to move various sources of water to diverse destinations and beneficial uses then the facilities are doing the most good for the American public. These public facilities will then better serve municipal, industrial and agricultural water needs while the environment is being served during times of drought. This bill will clarify a portion of law that federal regulatory agencies are interpreting in such a way as to prevent conveyance and storage of otherwise legal water transfers within the State of California in Federal facilities. Please pursue passage of this legislative correction.

Sincerely,

DAVID WEISENBERGER,  
*General Manager.*

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following Earmark request:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: Conference Report to H.R. 3183, FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations

Account: EERE

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: UC San Diego

Address of Requesting Entity: 9500 Gilman Drive, San Diego CA 92093

Description of Request: I received \$750,000 for the San Diego Center for Algae Biotechnology (SD-CAB). SD-CAB is a consortium of renowned research institutions—including UC San Diego, The Scripps Research Institute, the Salk Institute, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego State University and other regional entities—that are collaborating with industry partners in a broad-scale research effort to develop advanced transportation fuels from algae. Scientists from these institutions established SD-CAB in an effort to make sustainable algae-based fuel production and carbon dioxide abatement a reality within the next 5 to 10 years. The primary goal of the center is to create a national facility capable of developing and implementing innovative research solutions for the commercialization of fuel production from algae. Algae biofuels have the potential to provide a secure and renewable source of transportation fuel that is at least carbon neutral, and does not compete for land or fresh water resources required to grow food supply crops.

To further establish the SD-CAB as a national research resource for the sustainable

development of algae-based biofuels, I made a project request intended to help develop the facilities necessary to the production and culturing of a variety of algae strains. These facilities would be both on campus at UCSD and at an off-site location where existing infrastructure can be readily upgraded, refurbished and leveraged for the SD-CAB research enterprise. A congressionally directed appropriation of \$750,000 has been provided in the House FY 2010 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill to help meet these needs.

This advanced research project will provide an important training component for both students and faculty, in this critical emerging field of research. It will serve as a platform for continued collaboration with other universities and key industry partners. It is also a logical continuation of the San Diego region's leadership role at both the state and federal levels in developing and deploying viable alternative energy and transportation fuel solutions. Further, the cutting edge R&D into alternative transportation fuels derived from algae enabled by this project will be reflective of current related policy goals and funding priorities of both the federal government and the State of California.

#### GOVERNORS OF CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters from the governors of California and Florida:

JULY 31, 2009.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
*Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR REID, SENATOR MCCONNELL, MADAM SPEAKER AND MR. BOEHNER: I appreciate your commitment and hard work toward reforming the nation's health care system. I think we can all agree that the current system is not working as it should, and I have long supported a significant overhaul. Costs continue to explode, while tens of millions remain uninsured or underinsured. Many families are one illness away from financial ruin—even if they do have insurance.