

**Written Testimony of William Bourdeau
House Natural Resources Committee's
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee
Hearing on H.R. 4891, H.R. 5316, and H.R. 5347
January 28, 2020**

Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member McClintock, and Subcommittee Members:

My name is William Bourdeau and I am the Executive Vice President for Harris Farms, the Chairman at California Water Alliance, a board member for Westlands Water District and the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority, as well as a former Coalinga City council member. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 5347, and H.R. 5316. My comments today are my own, but my experience working with the farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, which are the most regulated and the hardest working people I have met, informs my testimony today.

H.R. 5347 by Congressman Cox is aimed at assisting disadvantaged communities access safe drinking water through a new grant within the Department of the Interior. While the need Congressman Cox is attempting to solve is real, it appears these efforts are duplicative of the work being done by the EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act. It may be more appropriate to address the shortcomings of the current program, instead of creating a new one.

H.R. 5316 also by Congressman Cox creates a grant program tailor-made to address the needs of the Friant-Kern Canal. Yet, they are already in the process of receiving federal funds thanks to the WIIN Act. Just last month Congress approved \$2.3 million the Bureau of Reclamation requested for the feasibility study to address subsidence and capacity issues in the Friant-Kern Canal. While it is easy to claim credit for obtaining funding under the WIIN Act, it is another to acknowledge this law has provided real money for California water, and I sincerely hope you reauthorize ALL Reclamation provisions in the WIIN Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on these bills. I look forward to your questions.