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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 29, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to support enactment of S. 1959/H.R. 4072, the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*.

We have sent the attached letters to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to urge them to expedite consideration of S. 1959 in the upcoming Lame Duck Session of Congress. This legislation is the product of a multi-year process of study and public participation to improve the management of federal lands in Santa Barbara County and other areas of the Central Coast of California.

S. 1959 includes provisions to protect 245,665 acres of new and expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protect wild and scenic rivers, and designate the Condor National Recreation Trail. These lands provide critical watershed, recreation areas, cultural resource protection, and habitat reserves that are vitally important to Santa Barbara County residents. The lands that are proposed for wilderness designation will add to and connect with existing wildernesses, thereby increasing and complementing their resource protection value.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring S. 1959. Please continue to work for passage of this legislation by the committee and the Senate to protect these essential natural resources.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg
Enclosures