

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to vote against Amendment Nos. 683 and 675 by Senator Coburn that would strip a court-approved settlement from the Omnibus Public Lands Bill (S. 22/H.R. 146) and prohibit the use of eminent domain.

This Settlement ends 18 years of litigation, and is supported by a broad group, including:

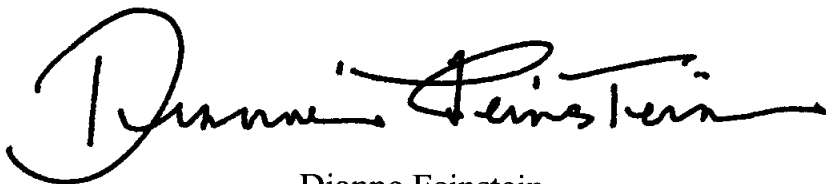
- The State of California
- Governor Schwarzenegger
- The U.S. Department of Justice
- The Bureau of Reclamation
- State and national water associations
- Local water districts
- Fishing and environmental groups
- Friant Water Users Authority

If Senator Coburn's amendments pass:

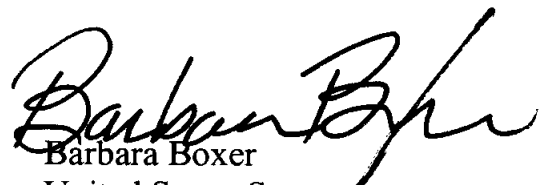
- The Court would potentially order a much larger release of water, according to the parties to the litigation, negatively impacting about 15,000 farms.
- The Federal government would lose money. Because of the Settlement, the State of California will pay \$200 million and the water users will provide approximately another \$200 million. Without the settlement, the federal government must pay the entire cost of the restoration effort.
- Without eminent domain, the Settlement's improved flood protection and bypass measures to limit impacts to private landowners may not be possible.

This Settlement is a model for consensus solutions to other difficult water issues. These amendments must not pass, and we urge to you to vote NO on Amendment Nos. 683 and 675.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator