

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 15, 2026

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building #112
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building #331
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 4603 (Schiff), Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2026 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Schiff and Senator Padilla,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for S. 4603, the Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2026. This legislation represents a critical and urgently needed step toward combating the threat posed by the invasive golden mussel to California's water systems, infrastructure, environment, and communities.

Although the bill's primary implementation area is the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, Kern County relies heavily on water resources, conveyance infrastructure, and ecological stability connected to statewide water systems. The rapid spread of the golden mussel threatens water quality, agricultural operations, public infrastructure, hydropower and conveyance systems, and the overall reliability of the water supply, issues of central importance to our residents, farms, and local economy.

We are particularly supportive of the bill's provisions to:

- Establish a comprehensive demonstration program focused on prevention, monitoring, eradication, research, public education, and early-warning systems to track the mussel's spread.
- Develop and evaluate innovative control and eradication technologies, including those applicable to water intakes, conveyance structures, fish screens, vessels, and other critical infrastructure.
- Provide technical assistance and ensure that information, research, and best-practice guidelines are shared with state and local agencies that must prepare for and respond to this invasive species.
- Create a competitive grant program enabling local governments, research institutions, and industry partners to contribute directly to solutions and accelerate technology deployment.
- Authorize sustained federal funding necessary to ensure long-term success in containment and eradication efforts.

As a region deeply dependent on reliable, clean, and efficiently delivered water, Kern County recognizes the profound risks that invasive species like the golden mussel pose to local communities statewide. Federal leadership and coordination, as envisioned in S. 4603, will significantly strengthen California's capacity to prevent an ecological and infrastructure crisis.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to offer its full support for S. 4603 and respectfully urges Congress to advance and enact this vital legislation. Thank you for your leadership in addressing this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern House Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs