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April 14, 2016

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1630 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 4615 - Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Huffman:



On behalf of Bay Planning Coalition I want to thank you for sponsoring H.R. 4615, the Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act.

Bay Planning Coalition is a nonprofit, member organization that advocates for sustainable commerce, industry, infrastructure, recreation and the natural environment connected to the San Francisco Bay and its watershed. We view water conservation as a critical endeavor that should be encouraged in every way.

H.R. 4615 would amend the Internal Revenue Service Code to exclude water conservation, efficiency and storm water management rebates from local water agencies to their ratepayers from being considered part of the recipients' gross income for federal tax purposes. Similar exemptions already exist for electric and gas utilities' rebate payments for energy conservation measures, and these water-related rebates are already exempt from California state income tax calculations.

California is currently experiencing an extraordinary drought, estimated to be the most severe in 1,200 years. This year's El Niño weather system has so far only brought modest relief. This makes water conservation measures like replacing turf, installing "gray water" capture systems and replacing outdated appliances with more efficient technology especially important. The rebates provided by local water agencies combined with the change proposed by H.R. 4615 would make these measures affordable for a large number of households.

Water is a critical resource. We should be doing all that we can to promote its conservation in new and expanded ways. Providing tax-exempt consumer rebates will be a big step forward in this effort. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



John Coleman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bay Planning Coalition