

September 14, 2018



Congressman Rob Bishop
1st District, State of Utah
123 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop,

Marin Conservation League (MCL) appreciates your being the original co-sponsor of H.R. 6687, which supports the historic working dairies and ranches in the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS). MCL supports its passage. Having bi-partisan support of this bill is appreciated.

This bill will clarify and amend the enabling legislation for PRNS by directing the Secretary of the Interior to manage PRNS "consistent with Congress' longstanding intent to maintain working dairies and ranches on agricultural property as part of the Seashore's unique historic, cultural, scenic and natural values." Further, it will fulfill the 2012 directive of Ken Salazar, then Secretary of the Interior, to offer 20-year leases to the Seashore.

The bill does not alter existing legislation that calls for PRNS to be administered "without impairment of its natural values." Importantly, the bill directing the Secretary to manage the Tule elk for separation from the working ranches or dairies will support the economic viability of the dairies and ranches. MCL urges that this management is conducted humanely.

HR 6687's directive to the Secretary to: "complete, without delay, the General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) for PRNS, including the northern district of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and an Environmental Impact Statement. MCL is satisfied that the GMPA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, currently underway, will not be compromised by this legislation.

MCL's Agricultural Policy Statement notes that "The vast majority of ranches and farms are generational family enterprises, which has effectively raised sustainable standards and made owners better guardians of the land." With the assurance of longer leases, ranchers and dairy operators, working with park staff, will be able to invest in positive programs for the benefit of the environment. MCL supports and urges passage of this well-crafted bill.

Sincerely,



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President
Marin Conservation League

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