



Santa Cruz Bird Club

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santacruzbirdclub.org

March 10, 2017

Senator Bill Monning
Member Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA. 95814

RE: SB49 at Natural Resources Committee, March 14

Dear Senator Monning:

We urge you to support SB49, the California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2017.

As you know, the U.S. Congress is poised to undo many of the environmental laws that have maintained a healthy environment and a good quality of life throughout our country including the Central Coast.

SB49, if enacted as California law, will assure that important measures to protect air quality, water quality, and endangered species will continue in California even if federal law changes.

As advocates for birds and other native wildlife, we especially support Article 4 of the bill. This section expands the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) to include current protections of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). An example of a California endangered species that would likely suffer from the loss of the federal law if the state law is not strengthened is the Marbled Murrelet. This unique seabird requires old-growth forests for nesting, and loss of that habitat might occur if the federal law is gutted, leading to extinction of the species. The provisions of SB49 would strengthen the "take" provisions of CESA to equal those of the ESA, and thereby protect species like the Marbled Murrelet.

The Santa Cruz Bird Club (www.santacruzbirdclub.org) is a local non-profit environmental organization comprised of nearly 500 individuals who have a common interest in wild birds, their study and conservation. Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Sheridan,
President, Santa Cruz Bird Club