CNPS has not yet released its position report on the many California environmental bills it is monitoring. When available, those positions will be reported in The Pipevine. Of the many environmental bills pending before the 114th Congress, one seems to be of particular interest to California native plant lovers.

United States Fish & Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act (H.R. 4558) was introduced on February 12, 2016 by California’s 5th District Congressman, Mike Thompson. It has 4 non-California co-sponsors. It has no companion bill in the Senate. The bill authorizes the USF&WS to seek compensation for injuries to system resources under its trust and to use those funds to restore, replace or acquire equivalent resources. The term “system resource” is defined as “any living, nonliving, historical, cultural or archeological resource within a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Fish Hatchery System or any other land managed by USF&WS (including lands managed cooperatively with any other Federal or State agency).” This broad definition should include native plants and ecosystems. Since California has a large acreage under sole or cooperative USF&WS management, this bill should be especially beneficial. It is presently in the Committee for Natural Resources, and subcommittees on Federal lands and Water, Power and Oceans. Tell your Congressman to support H.R. 4558!

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The full text of bills and the Legislative Analyst’s summary are available on the California Legislature Information website (Click Link Here).

CNPS positions on bills are available at CNPS Legislative Report (Click Link Here). Overview of CNPS Legislation Program (Click Link Here).