



The Western Coalition of Arid States

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June 28, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
410 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
456 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, Chairman Inhofe and
Ranking Member Cardin:

The Board of Directors of the WESTCAS Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] wishes to express our appreciation for your leadership in passing S-2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 unanimously through your Committee. It is our sincere hope that you will be able to go to conference with your House counterparts and create a final version of the bill. Success in the endeavor would be a welcome confirmation that the Congress has now firmly reestablished a two-year cycle for WRDA reauthorizations.

WESTCAS is an organization of water and wastewater providers who advocate for water resources in the arid Southwest. Growing population and recurrent droughts throughout our region mean that legislation like WRDA is vital to our mission. This includes the provisions that affect the approximately 700 Army Corps of Engineers dams and their missions of water supply and flood control. Your legislation lays out a solid framework for the future with regard to this issue including more local involvement in the selection of projects and an acceleration of the process through which Federal funding is awarded.

The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West

P. O. Box 77561 Washington, D. C. 20013-7561

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WESTCAS continues to support and asks for the full Committee's consideration and adoption of an amendment that would ensure that the WaterSense labeling minimizes any unintended or negative impacts to wastewater treatment works, recycled water quality, or water quality in receiving water. The full text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

(b) Duties.—The Administrator, coordinating as appropriate with the Secretary of Energy, shall –

“(1) establish—

“(A) a WaterSense label to be used for items meeting the certification criteria established in accordance with this section; and

“(B) the procedure, including the methods and means, and criteria by which an item may be certified to display the WaterSense label, minimizing unintended or negative impacts to wastewater treatment works, recycled water quality, or water quality in receiving water;

Thank you again for the effort that you have made to advance the WRDA reauthorization process. WESTCAS looks forward to working with you and with your House counterparts as you proceed to conference on this bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley
President

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