



# The Western Coalition of Arid States

## WESTCAS

### **OFFICERS**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Steve Bigley  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Coachella, California

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Mike Eytel  
CRWCD  
Glenwood Springs, CO

#### **SECRETARY**

Jim Kudlinski  
Salt River Project  
Phoenix, AZ

#### **TREASURER**

Larry Libeu  
Temecula, California

July 20, 2018

The Honorable Doug Lamborn  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans  
Room 1522  
Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Attention: William Ball via: [bill.ball@mail.house.gov](mailto:bill.ball@mail.house.gov)

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **ARIZONA**

Ed Curley  
Jim Kudlinski

#### **CALIFORNIA**

Steve Bigley  
Jolene Walsh

#### **COLORADO**

Andra Ahrens  
Mike Eytel

#### **NEVADA**

Brenda Pohlmann

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Aaron Chavez  
Joshua Rosenblatt

#### **TEXAS**

Peggy Glass  
Wayne Owen

#### **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Kelly Collins

#### **ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**

Mike Fleury  
Jolene McCaleb, Esquire

#### **AT-LARGE**

Kelly Collins  
Larry Libeu

#### **WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION**

Fred B. Hicks, Ph.D.  
J. Tom Ray, P.E.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Dawn Moore, CMP

#### **WEBSITE/E-MAIL**

WWW.WESTCAS.ORG  
westcas@westcas.org

Dear Chairman Lamborn:

The Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] is an organization of water and wastewater providers who advocate for water resources in the Arid Southwest. We are active in both the legislative and regulatory arenas. WESTCAS is writing to thank you for the leadership of your Subcommittee concerning the issue of bringing the Lacey Act and cross-border interstate water supply transfers into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Thank you especially for the hearing that you chaired on May 17 entitled, "Federal Impediments to Commerce and Innovative Injurious Species Management." Also thank you for the support of your Subcommittee for H.R. 1807, the "Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act" which addresses the Lacey Act concerns on the border between Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

We have attached a copy of the WESTCAS Position Statement on Protecting Interstate Water Supply Transfers that addresses the issue of water supply and Federal policies and shares how WESTCAS and its membership view the Lacey Act/Interstate water supply transfer issue.

During your May 17 hearing the Committee was once again reminded by the North Texas Municipal Water District of the consequences of having the US Fish and Wildlife Service halt an interstate water transfer that was providing 28% of the water supply for more than 1.6 million people, all amid one of the worst droughts in Texas history. The efforts of your Subcommittee are making it less likely that other water agencies will have to face a situation like the one encountered by the North Texas Municipal Water District. But until the Congress clarifies the issue this cannot be assured.

***The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West***

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

*770-424-8111 Fax: 770-518-1959*



**The Western Coalition of Arid States**  
**W E S T C A S**

WESTCAS is pleased that the testimony on May 17 called attention to the increasingly effective local, State, and Federal efforts to limit the spread of invasive mussels including the “Don’t Move A Mussel” program managed by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. Agencies from throughout the arid west, including a number of WESTCAS members, are adopting their own operations and cooperating with Federal, State, and other local partners to limit the spread of invasive mussels in their distribution systems. This is important because it highlights the fact that water agencies are doing much more than simply move water across state lines.

We appreciate that the Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee sees the Lacey Act issue in regional and national terms and that you are keenly aware of the potential impact if the Lacey Act were used to interrupt the water supply of, for example, the Colorado River. Could the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the future duplicate their interruption of this water supply as they did in Texas because of the presence of an invasive species? The answer to this question is hopefully “no”, but that is a reminder of why it is so important that your Committee proceed with outreach to those who are opposed to H.R. 1807 to seek a consensus that provides a balance between water supply and protection from invasive species.

Should the Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans consider pursuing a “work group” to provide a vehicle to advance a comprehensive discussion of these issues, the WESTCAS Board and membership would strongly support such an initiative and would pledge our active participation in the process. The WESTCAS contribution to the work group would bring highly experienced, critical, and unique Southwest perspectives and goal-oriented solutions from our member agencies.

Thank you again for all your help and leadership with regard to this issue. Your assistance is deeply appreciated. Please know that we are ready to help support your efforts as you work with your colleagues to move the Lacey Act/water supply issue forward in the Congress.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley  
President

***The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West***

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

*770-424-8111 Fax: 770-518-1959*