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WWW.WESTCAS.ORG  
westcas@mindspring.com

July 7, 2010

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

RE: Support of HR 5487, to amend the Water Resources and Research Act, of 1984

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

The Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] is an organization established in 1991 to advocate laws, regulations, standards, and policies that provide environmentally sound, science-based protection and wise use of water resources in unique arid west ecosystems. Our robust membership is made up of Regular Members representing public water resource and services agencies and Associate Members, derived from engineering, scientific, and legal professionals in the private sector. Our members represent the water quality and quantity issues in California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Texas. We wish to thank you for your recent introduction of HR 5487, the Water Resources Research Act of 2010.

We are excited that through your leadership the Water and Power Subcommittee has already held hearings on this legislation. We hope that the Natural Resources Committee and the full House of Representatives will consider this bill in a timely fashion and that your bill can be conferenced with its Senate companion, S. 3363, and passed into law in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The water resource problems associated with the arid west cannot be addressed without new knowledge that can only be provided by research. We commend you for including the USGS as a vehicle for coordinating knowledge and information that is vital to securing our water future and we particularly approve of the approach in HR 5487 to leverage federal dollars with other academic, federal, state, and private dollars that will, in turn, help develop applied solutions to our current and future water problems.

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

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

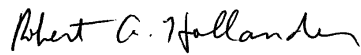
*770-424-8111 Fax: 770-424-9468*



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

Thank you again for introducing HR 5487. WESTCAS strongly supports your efforts on this legislation and is available to assist as the legislation continues to be considered by Congress.

Sincerely,



Robert Hollander  
President

RH/dfm

cc: Robert Hirsch, USGS

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