

The Western Coalition of Arid States

WESTCAS



April 22, 2009

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WEBSITE/E-MAIL

WWW.WESTCAS.ORG
westcas@mindspring.com

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

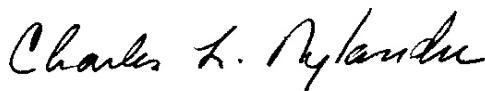
Dear Chairman Bingaman:

The Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) is writing to express our strong support of the nomination of Mr. Michael Connor to be the next Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. WESTCAS is a coalition of approximately 125 water and wastewater districts, cities, and professional organizations focused on water quality and water quantity issues in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Texas.

In addition to being President of WESTCAS, I am also a native New Mexican, so I am aware of Mr. Connor's involvement in water issues that are of great importance to our State. Just a few examples would include the ESA Collaborative Program for the Middle Rio Grande that fosters cooperation among Federal and State agencies and non-governmental stakeholders, the Gallup Water Pipeline, the Navajo water rights settlement, and funding for arsenic treatment and Title 16 Water Reuse projects. Many of our WESTCAS members have worked with Mr. Connor on similar issues in their states, and enthusiastically agree that his knowledge and experience on western water issues makes him very well qualified to be our next Commissioner and assures that he will be a great asset to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Because of the growing water crisis throughout the West, we hope that Mr. Connor will be confirmed and be able to assume his duties as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Charles L. Nylander
President

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