

Honorable Diane Feinstein  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
S-128, the Capitol  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] is an organization of over 100 water resource agencies, consulting engineering firms, attorneys, and other water professionals who advocate for water resources in the Arid West. We wish to thank you for the \$885,187,000 provided in the Bureau's Water and Related Resources account of your FY12 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. Although we understand that this represents a reduction from FY11, the additional \$80,483,000 when compared to the Administration request is desperately needed throughout the Bureau States.

Our members are dealing with population growth, periodic drought, and a host of water allocation and regulatory challenges. Funding partnerships with the Bureau represent an important component part of our effort to secure the water resources of the Arid West in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But this won't be possible unless people like you make sure that Bureau funding remains essentially intact during these difficult budgetary times.

We also thank you for your Report language on page 6 of the Report for your bill in which you note: "This Committee continues to believe that Members of Congress are best positioned to know the unique needs of their individual States and Congressional Districts. Some of our most successful, ongoing Reclamation projects of our members have received cuts of over 97% in their funding over the past two years owing to the inability of their Congressional Representatives to advocate for them. This has greatly complicated and confused our ability to move forward in a timely fashion.

WESTCAS will continue to express its support of your provisions for Bureau of Reclamation funding to our Members of Congress and to your counterparts on the House Energy and Water Appropriations Committee. We hope that your level of funding for the Bureau's Water and Related Resources account is retained in whatever final version the bill may take. Thank you again for your leadership with regard to this issue.

Sincerely,