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**The Western Coalition of Arid States**  
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Congressman Ken Calvert, Chairman  
Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
2363 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 17, 2017

Re: Water data and science program funding in the Interior Department  
Appropriations for FY-2018

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

WESTCAS is a coalition of nearly 100 water and wastewater districts, cities, towns, and professional organizations focused on water quality and water quantity issues in the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas. Our mission is to work with Federal, State, and regional water quality and quantity agencies to promote scientifically-sound laws, regulations, appropriations and policies that protect public health and the environment while meeting water needs in the arid west.

We all benefit from the reliable data and science from the National Streamflow Network. The data are vital in the forecasting and response during floods, droughts, and other extreme events, design of dams, reservoirs, bridges and other infrastructure.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is charged with carrying out the federal objectives for the National Streamflow Network, as authorized by Congress in 2009. Those objectives are to operate and maintain a stable "federal backbone" network of stream gages to meet five specific national needs for streamflow information. However, the USGS cannot complete the National Streamflow Network by 2019, as Congress directed, without additional funding.

WESTCAS urges your support to enable the US Geological Survey (USGS), a Bureau in the Department of Interior (DOI) to fully implement its design for National Streamflow Network. Our members rely on the stream gage data and science that USGS produces.

Sincerely,



Kelly Collins  
President