



The Western Coalition of Arid States

WESTCAS

August 15, 2017

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The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
1600 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

I am writing on behalf of the Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] to thank you for your strong support for FY18 funding for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and for the Bureau of Reclamation. As you move forward with your House and Senate colleagues to complete work on the Energy and Water Appropriations bill we urge you to continue this support for the Feasibility Studies, Construction, and O&M accounts of the Army Corps of Engineers and for the Water and Related Resources Account and for the WaterSmart Grants and Title XVI funding programs of the Bureau of Reclamation.

WESTCAS is an organization of water and wastewater service providers who advocate for water resources in the Arid Southwest. We are active in both the legislative and regulatory areas with regard to water related issues that affect our membership. We work to raise awareness of the unique character of arid regions that lead to the development of proposed legislation and rulemaking in support of water resources.

Water infrastructure funding conducted in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation is an important tool that our WESTCAS membership uses to help ensure that the Arid West will have vitally needed water infrastructure. This is an essential response to the challenges posed by drought and population growth throughout our region.

The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West

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W E S T C A S

We salute you and your House colleagues for your success in having the FY18 bill approved by the full House in July, and we are also pleased to note that the Senate companion bill has been approved in full Appropriations Committee. Because water infrastructure is so important, this letter requests your consideration to provide the larger of either the House or Senate funding figures for the programs identified including \$113,465,000 for Corps Feasibility studies; \$1,703,150,000 for Corps Construction; and \$3,519,000,000 for Corps O&M; \$1,150,000,349 for the Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources account; \$24,000 for the WaterSmart grant program; and \$35,000,000 for Title XVI funding.

Even a few million dollars extra can go a long way when local cost sharing is factored in. Again, thank you for your leadership and support for these important programs and for your great work moving the FY18 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley
President

SB/dfm

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