

The Western Coalition of Arid States

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May 29, 2019

The Honorable Paul Gosar
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

WESTCAS was formed in 1992 when water and wastewater service providers joined together to share their talents and resources, assuming the name Western Coalition of Arid States or "WESTCAS." A grass roots organization, WESTCAS is dedicated to encouraging the development of water programs and regulations that assure adequate supplies of high-quality water for those living in the arid regions, while protecting the environment. Enactment of H.R. 2313 embodies the goals and the mission of WESTCAS.

On behalf of the Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] we appreciate the opportunity to express strong support for the introduction of H.R. 2313, "the Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act." This legislation is essential to relieving citizens from having to pay federal tax on rebates they receive from water agencies for participating in water conservation efforts made on their property.

WESTCAS agrees strongly that the tax code should support and recognize water conservation in the same way that the federal government already incentivizes energy conservation rebates. H.R. 2313 achieves this balance. WESTCAS is aware of the fact that many thousands of Southern Californians received unexpected tax bills after they had participated in a conservation rebate program administered by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In return for installing water-saving technologies to make their homes and communities better able to deal with future droughts these citizens were instead rewarded with an additional bill for taxes.

The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West

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

770-424-8111 Fax: 770-727-2121

The Western Coalition of Arid States

WESTCAS

Water conservation tax rebates are a reminder that home-by-home, property-by-property adoption of water saving technologies adds up to many millions of gallons in water savings. This includes common sense measures such as replacing lawns with alternatives that are more suited to arid climates. The current tax laws governing water conservation tax credits are a disincentive to citizen cooperation in these efforts. H.R. 2313 helps to provide clarity and consistency for communities all across the United States that when property owners participate in water conservation rebate programs, they won't be stuck with a tax bill as a consequence.

Thank you again for your support and leadership with regard to your legislation. WESTCAS appreciates your effort and recognizes that H.R. 2313 represents a crucial step forward for water conservation throughout the arid west.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley
President

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1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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