



The Western Coalition of Arid States

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July 17, 2019

The Honorable Cory Gardiner
United States Senate
354 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martha McSally
United States Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Gardner, McSally, Feinstein, and Sinema:

The Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] wishes to express its support for S. 1932 “The Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act”, to thank you for your role in introducing this important legislation, and for the July 17 hearing before the Senate Water and Power Subcommittee on the bill.

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 of the West while also protecting the environment. Enactment of S. 1932 embodies the goals and the mission of WESTCAS.

This legislation recognizes that all types of water projects need to be a part of water resources legislation including storage, water recycling, and desalination. This approach gives western water agencies the needed tools that are necessary to provide a reliable water supply.

There are a number of other provisions in S. 1932 that WESTCAS supports including: removing the WIIN Act Title XVI expiration date; authorizing increased appropriations for the WIIN Act Title XVI funding; increasing from \$20 million to \$30 million Federal funding for Title XVI; providing a \$670 million authorization of appropriations for surface and groundwater storage projects; and creation of the “Reclamation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act [RIFIA] to provide an affordable financing tool for local water agencies administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West

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WESTCAS



Thank you again for your continued leadership with regard to water issues that is most recently embodied in S. 1932. WESTCAS appreciates the opportunity to express our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley
President

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