



The Western Coalition of Arid States
WESTCAS

July 7, 2010

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The Honorable Ciro Rodriguez
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

RE: Support of HR 4719, to amend the Southwest Border Region Water Task Force

Dear Congressman Rodriguez:

The Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] is an organization established in 1991 to advocate laws, regulations, standards and policies that provide environmentally sound, science-based protection and wise use of water resources in unique Arid West ecosystems. Our robust membership is made up of Regular Members representing public water resource agencies and Associate Members, derived from engineering, scientific, and legal professionals in the private sector. Our members represent the water quality and quantity issues in California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Texas.

We wish to thank you for your recent introduction of HR4719, the Southwest Border Region Water Task Force. We are excited that through your leadership the Water and Power Subcommittee has already held hearings on this legislation. We hope that the Natural Resources Committee and the full House of Representatives will consider this bill in a timely fashion and passed into law in the 111th Congress.

Four of our WESTCAS member states are Border States: California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. These states have experienced the funding difficulties of providing safe and adequate water and wastewater infrastructure for the growing communities along the U.S. and Mexico Border. Each of these states is struggling to protect public health and the environment along the Border. In point of fact, States like New Mexico just recently enacted special State Legislation to provide basic amounts of funding for desperately needed water and wastewater infrastructure in the "Colonias", a term that the rapidly growing Border communities are known by.

The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West

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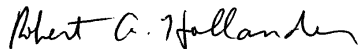


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W E S T C A S

Concerns regarding the spread of water-borne disease and accelerated water pollution due to inadequate or illegal wastewater disposal practices are growing along the Southwest Border. These issues only exacerbate the Border issues related to immigration, healthcare, education, drug trafficking, and its associated violence. Thus, our WESTCAS members applaud your efforts to create a Southwest Border Region Water Task Force. We support the list of Federal entities enumerated in the legislation for deriving Task Force membership, and especially appreciate the inclusion of relevant State agencies. The Assessment Functions enumerated on page 2 of H.R. 4719 are appropriate and sorely needed to support rational water and wastewater infrastructure planning along the Southwest Border.

Thank you again for introducing HR4719. WESTCAS strongly supports your efforts on this legislation and is available to assist as the legislation continues to be considered by Congress.

Sincerely,



Robert Hollander
President

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