



December 8, 2017

Chairman Doug Lamborn  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Water and Power Subcommittee  
1522 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jared Huffman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Water and Power Subcommittee  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lamborn and Ranking Member Huffman:

The WateReuse Association (WRA) would like to submit this letter into the record for the House Natural Resources Committee hearing on November 30, 2017 on H.R. 4419, *"The Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act of 2017."* WRA is the only national association focused on advancing water recycling at the federal level and represents municipal water and wastewater utilities as well as businesses that undertake water reuse projects. As communities across the nation increasingly face water management challenges ranging from drought to groundwater depletion to wet weather, water recycling is becoming an increasingly important tool to address these diverse challenges.

WRA appreciates and supports the intent of H.R. 4419 to accelerate water infrastructure project delivery. The streamlining of regulatory processes to ensure the expedient and effective approval and implementation of water recycling projects while maintaining strong environmental quality is a priority for WateReuse. We are carefully reviewing the expedited environmental review and feasibility study procedures proposed in H.R. 4419 as a way of enhancing project delivery.

WRA is concerned with Sec. 9 of the bill which outlines a process to deauthorize inactive Bureau of Reclamation projects and programs in order to authorize new projects. Although H.R. 4419 does not specifically call out Title XVI water recycling projects for deauthorization, we are concerned that deauthorized Title XVI water recycling projects will be utilized as a "pay-for" for non-Title XVI projects. Title XVI provides critical funding for a wide range of water supply projects, including water recycling and storage projects, and diverting authority away from this program could have unintended consequences for communities across the West that seek to undertake future water supply and water recycling projects.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns with H.R. 4419 and look forward to discussing them further with the Committee. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Sinicropi", is written in a cursive style.

Patricia Sinicropi  
Executive Director  
WateReuse Association