



November 13, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Bishop, and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance and the WaterReuse Association, we are writing to urge your support for a number of provisions including the reauthorization of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse competitive grant program, the reauthorization of the desalination program, and the reauthorization of the western water storage program, as authorized in the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. We also urge the authorization of a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) Act program within the Bureau of Reclamation, building on the coordination and agreement provisions at Sections 4301 and 5030(g) of American's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

We are requesting your assistance in including these vital reauthorizations and authorization language in the developing water resources legislation to be acted on during the lame duck session.

As you are aware, Title XVI has been an extremely successful program focused on water recycling in the West. The desalination program, along with the western water storage program, work together with water recycling to give our growers and communities alike the range of tools and opportunities to address our stressed water sources to provide a safe and secure source of sustainable water supplies – the key to our livelihood and economy in the West. With the enactment of the FY 2019 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, the authorization for the Title XVI-WIIN competitive grants, as well as the desalination program and the western water storage program, has been reached. Therefore, we believe it is critical to reauthorize these three vital water supply programs for our communities.

In addition, and to build a range of options to allow an opportunity for water supply, conservation, and recycling financing to stretch the federal dollar further and to extend to projects that may not otherwise be eligible for financing, we are looking to build on the strong language in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. That language provided for an agreement on WIFIA between the EPA and Bureau of Reclamation for EPA to provide assistance to Reclamation in administering a credit program. This requested authorization would allow Interior to provide secured loans or loan guarantees under the WIFIA approach to state and local governments, irrigation districts, water users associations, and others that contract with the United States under Federal reclamation law to carry out water projects within the 17 western states served by Reclamation. We see this authorization as a key piece for strengthening the financing opportunities for a broad range of users across the 17 western states to address their critical water supply needs on a localized basis.

Thank you for your consideration of our western water supply requests. Your efforts to include these four elements in the water resources legislation in the upcoming lame duck session are most appreciated and we stand ready to answer and questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dan Keppen
Executive Director
Family Farm Alliance

Patricia Sinicropi
Executive Director
WateReuse Association