



April 5, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

In 2016, as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, Congress established a competitive grant program within the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program (Title XVI-WIIN) to provide federal cost-share grant funding for water recycling projects in the West. It is the only federal program with water recycling as its sole purpose.

There is a large and growing backlog of \$528 million of federal cost share for eligible Title XVI-WIIN projects, and the demand for Title XVI-WIIN grants will continue to grow as more projects become eligible. Title XVI-WIIN is an integral part of the federal funding partnership with local communities throughout the West to ensure they have safe and sustainable water supplies to meet demand. The WaterReuse Association Pacific Northwest Section represents municipal water utilities, businesses and institutions that support or undertake water reuse in the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. From the Cities of Prineville to Durham, water recycling is an important water resource for communities across Oregon. Water recycling has also been an important tool for communities dealing with nutrient management challenges.

Given the critical role that water reuse will play in future water management, and given the overwhelming demand for Title XVI-WIIN projects across the West, we ask that you work with the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee to secure \$100 million for this program in FY 2020.

In addition to funding the Title XVI-WIIN program, we ask for your support in protecting USBR's Desalination and Water Purification Program. The Desalination Program provides funding for projects in Reclamation states that involve ocean or brackish water desalination. In the West, desalination is an important tool that can help communities better manage their water supply. We ask for your support in securing \$20 million for the Desalination Program in FY 2020.

Thank you for considering our requests. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other members listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacqueline Klug", is written over a blue circular stamp.

Jacqueline Klug, President
WaterReuse Association Pacific Northwest