

DATE

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and McCarthy:

The undersigned organizations urge you to act swiftly to finalize legislation making historic investments in our nation's infrastructure, including through programs that support water recycling across the country.

As you work to enact a bipartisan infrastructure package and a reconciliation package by year's end, we urge you to invest in water recycling and related federal programs to help communities build climate resilience and a secure economic future. The House reconciliation package, as reported out of the Budget Committee in September, invests \$125 million for FY 2022 in the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants, the only nationwide program dedicated to advancing water recycling as a resource management and resiliency tool.

With severe and persistent drought ravaging Western states, the need for water recycling in the West has never been clearer. In the rest of the country, communities are turning to water recycling to manage a range of climate change impacts, including aquifer depletion, severe and frequent flooding, water quality degradation, and land subsidence. The Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program will ensure that communities across the United States can access water recycling tools to build resilience in the face of climate change and uncertain weather events. We strongly support the inclusion of at least \$125 million per year for this program in the final reconciliation package.

In addition to enacting a reconciliation package that includes nationwide water recycling resources, Congress should act swiftly to enact the bipartisan infrastructure package—the *Infrastructure and Jobs Act*. The *Infrastructure and Jobs Act* includes \$1 billion for Western water recycling programs administered by the Bureau of Reclamation. \$550 million would be made available through the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Grants Program, while \$450 million would be made available for large-scale water recycling projects. Given the persistent drought across the West and the impact that water supply constraints will have for generations to come, it is imperative that Congress invest in water recycling programs to support Western communities now and into the future.

Investment in water reuse builds communities that are modern, sustainable, and stable—ready for families to flourish and businesses to grow. We urge Congress to act swiftly to help communities build climate resilience and protect public health and the environment. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Cc:

Senator Tom Carper
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator Tammy Duckworth
Senator Cynthia Lummis
Senator Ben Cardin
Senator Kevin Cramer
Senator Joe Manchin
Senator John Barrasso
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Sam Graves
Representative Grace Napolitano
Representative David Rouzer
Representative Raul Grijalva
Representative Bruce Westerman
Representative Jared Huffman
Representative Cliff Bentzdsy;l/k