



Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

Newlands Project

October 8, 2018

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The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman
The Honorable Tom Carper, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Rusty D. Jardine, Esq., General Manager &
Counsel

Re: America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, I write in support of the "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" (S.3021, or "AWIA"). I express our appreciation for all the work performed by the Committee regarding this truly significant legislation.

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District is a political subdivision of the State of Nevada that provides operation and maintenance of the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project (Project) under agreement with the United States (Contract No. 7-07-20-X0348). The Project is the very first authorized under the Reclamation Act of 1902; and, our own Derby Dam, near Reno, Nevada, is the first dam in Reclamation's inventory of such facilities. Our District provides surface water delivery to some 2,500 water users –including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Reservation, the State of Nevada, and a host of area farmers. We boast of a history that began for us with the Act of 1902 and continues today. The role of our agricultural producers cannot be understated. The contribution made to our national economy, in places like the Lahontan Valley, in Nevada, amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars. We are proud of that!

In our Project, time has imposed upon us its inexorable demands: The works of the facilities are aging; and, the scope of the effort needed to care for them is daunting. Our District, having an annual budget of no more than Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000.00) annually, cannot reasonably shoulder the cost of new facilities, or existing facilities rehabilitation, with anticipated costs running into the tens or hundreds of millions of dollars! Thus measures such as the AWIA, which authorizes projects to be studied, planned, and developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are very-very important to projects such as ours, and to the communities that they support.

While the AWIA does not provide directed support for our local needs, we recognize what it does do for the likes of the Upper Missouri River watershed, the Fontenelle Reservoir in Wyoming, Snake River flood protection, and others. But, what we ask, for our District, is that as future legislation is considered that it be undertaken so as to answer the question of aging infrastructure: That the Newlands Project be the object of Congressional thought and action. In a project as old as the Newlands, it is simply impossible for us to sustain the financial burden of facility improvement without federal assistance.

Thank you for continuing efforts to better our nation's water infrastructure.

Respectfully,

TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: 

Rusty D. Jardine, Esq.
General Manager & Counsel

Cc: Board of Directors