KYRSTEN SINEMA
ARIZONA

317 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4521

3333 E. CAMELBACK RD, SUITE 200
PHOENIX, AZ 85018
(602) 598-7327

20 E. OCHOA ST
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 639-7080

http://sinema.senate.gov

United States Senate

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April 15, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelly Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

Thank you for your continued leadership on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. I write regarding my request to authorize an Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) - Infrastructure and water resources resiliency project.

The request is to authorize $4,800,000 for a new Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure project for the City of Flagstaff to work with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to fully design and layout an advanced wastewater treatment facility, which will ultimately enable potable reuse. Preparing water for indirect or direct potable reuse is a significant step toward groundwater resource resiliency.

The City of Flagstaff has a population of 80,000 and is a regional hub for commerce, tourism, and higher learning in Northern Arizona. About two-thirds of the City's treated effluent, from 3,000 to 4,000 acre-feet per year, is discharged to the Rio de Flag wash as uncommitted wastewater effluent. This substantial volume totals about half the water delivered as potable water annually. Therefore, the City of Flagstaff desires to construct an advanced water treatment facility that provides a water source for reuse. This water management benefit would significantly reduce or augment groundwater pumping from the city's aquifer.

In accordance with Senate rules, I attest that neither I nor any immediate family member has a pecuniary interest in this project.

It is no secret that water is essential to sustaining life in the Southwest. Arizona families rely on a stable water supply to cook and drink. Small businesses, tribal communities, farmers, and industry require water to hydrate their crops and herds, for manufacturing processes, and carrying out their operations. In accordance with all existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, I respectfully ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

