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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 the City of Tucson Southlands Recycled Water Loop – Environmental Infrastructure Project.

This request asks for a $30 million Environmental Infrastructure project to be authorized for the City of Tucson, AZ to design and construct an expansion to the City of Tucson's Reclaimed Water System to the southern portion of its service area. By bringing recycled water to the Southlands, Tucson will prevent future use of groundwater and reduce reliance on Colorado River water to meet non-potable uses, with an estimated impact of up to 10,000 acre-feet per year in additional recycled water use.

The study will identify a potential pipeline route to serve current and future users of recycled water where it could be used in lieu of potable/groundwater, and potential phasing for design and construction with cost estimates. The pipeline and associated infrastructure would complete a loop of Tucson's recycled water service area, increasing redundancy and capacity of the system while minimizing the size of the infrastructure required. It is anticipated that the route study will cost approximately $1.5M and take up to 18 months to complete. Design ($3.5M | 9 months) and construction ($35M | 24 months) of the reclaimed water transmission pipeline and associated storage and booster facilities would be completed immediately after the route study is concluded. The City of Tucson, through its Tucson Water department, would fund the local match of $10M, to complement this request for $30M of funding under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

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,

