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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 for a budget authority modification to an existing Environmental Infrastructure (EI) authorization.

Section 352 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 authorized $150 million for Arizona projects to be funded under the Army Corps of Engineers' Sec. 595 Western Rural Water program. In the year since the program was authorized, the Los Angeles District of the Corps, which provides civil works and military engineering support for projects in Arizona, has received requests for more than $100 million worth of funding. This totals more than half of the total funding authority. Given the unprecedented need in Arizona, the authorization level for the Arizona 595 Rural Western Water program should be increased from $200 million to $250 million in the 2022 WRDA.

Arizona continues to face a historic drought, which has led to Arizona farmers facing water restrictions under the provisions of the Lower Colorado Basin Drought Contingency Plan. Meanwhile, thousands of Arizonans living on tribal lands, especially within the Navajo Nation, continue to lack access to running water. While the drought persists, we must responsibly conserve water and ensure water delivery with minimum losses due to aging infrastructure. Considering these pressing needs, the Arizona 595 Rural Wester Water program requires $50 million in additional funding.

In accordance with Senate rules, I attest that neither I nor any immediate family member has a pecuniary interest in Sec. 595.

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,

