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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 a Tohono O'odham Nation Williams Field Water Resources Environmental Infrastructure Project.

This request is for $10 million for the construction of a new canal for the Nation through the former FUDS site to enable the Tohono O'odham nation to access its water allocation. The Nation hopes to utilize this FUDS site to construct a new canal to access the tribe's Central Arizona Project allocation of water. However, there is an unexploded ordnance site near the canal which prevents the Nation from using all of its water resources. To enable the construction of the new canal, this request also asks for a new project under Section 219 to be authorized.

This project will benefit a historically underserved community by allowing the Nation to access the water resources that it is legally entitled to receive and providing potential economic growth opportunities in the form of irrigated agriculture. The use of CAP water also will help to replenish lowering groundwater levels resulting from groundwater overdraft, and aid in protecting the Nation's water supplies.

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,

