

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 18, 2015

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Energy and Water Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur,

Thank you for your efforts to appropriately balance limited resources in this difficult fiscal climate in order to maintain our obligation to responsibly manage our nation's water supply. We are writing to express support for increased funding over FY2015 levels in the FY 2016 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to the Water and Related Resources account to ensure the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) satisfies its commitments to continue funding for authorized projects which have fully completed environmental compliance.

The work of the USBR in the West has greatly influenced the economy and livelihoods of those who reside in this semi-arid region. Through its development of storage and delivery systems, the USBR has brought water to communities large and small for a multitude of agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes.

While the agency has not experienced drastic reductions in its budget as some have in recent years of severe fiscal constraint, its budgetary resources are nonetheless stretched thin, particularly for discretionary expenditures on infrastructure projects that are not mandated, like tribal water rights settlements. Consequently, authorized projects receive funding at well under their spending capability, which only results in higher costs of completion.

Completing authorized water diversion and storage projects will deliver clean drinking water to families, producers and municipalities throughout the West. These projects are vital to the daily lives of those who depend on and deserve a sufficient supply of water to support abundant food production, vital industries and safe drinking water for western households. The projects are even more important in regions which are experiencing multi-year drought conditions and to economically-distressed rural communities which depend on farming, ranching and small industries to maintain their culture and quality of life.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee to direct an increase in funding to the USBR and its Water and Related Resources account.

We understand the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your discretion and thank you for your consideration of this request and your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



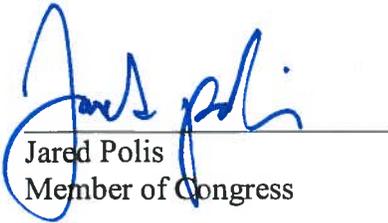
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



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