



**Western Coalition of Arid States  
WateReuse Association  
Family Farm Alliance  
National Urban Agriculture Council  
Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Upper Missouri Water Association  
National Water Resources Association  
Association of California Water Agencies  
Idaho Water Users Association**

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Kent Conrad  
United States Senate  
SH-530 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Attn: Tracee Gross, Deputy Legislative Director

Dear Senator:

The Invest in the West coalition, representing water users throughout the 17 western states asks that as a Member of the Senate Budget Committee, you continue to support efforts to adequately fund the Bureau of Reclamation during the 2003 fiscal year as the Committee moves forward with its Budget Resolution.

As noted during the Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee hearing on the Bureau's FY2003 Budget on March 8, all indications point to 2002 being an exceptionally dry water year throughout the West according to the National Drought Monitor. Water allocations are being reduced accordingly, with the inevitable impacts for agricultural communities, cities, and the economies of our region.

At the same time, the population growth that increased western states' populations more than 19% between 1990 and 2000 shows no sign of letting up. As Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Bennett Raley aptly noted in his testimony to the Subcommittee "For 100 years Reclamation has contributed to sustained economic growth and an enhanced quality of life in the Western States. Reclamation water projects have been developed to meet agricultural, tribal, urban, and industrial needs. In recent years, the public has requested environmental enhancements and more recreational opportunities while municipal and industrial users have demanded more high quality water. Population growth in the west is leading to greater competition for very limited resources."

We agree with that assessment of Reclamation's challenge. We also appreciate the \$80 million increase in their FY2003 Budget request over last year's request but believe the Bureau of

Reclamation Water and Related Resources budget direly needs more resources, and needs to reach at least \$1 billion in the near future. Trends in the western U.S. emphatically warn of a period of prolonged and acute water shortage, one that cannot be forestalled without an increased commitment to the Bureau of Reclamation. Therefore we are asking the Budget Committee in their Budget Resolution to provide \$115 million more for the FY2003 Budget for the Bureau of Reclamation than has been requested by the Administration.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter, and please contact us if we may be of assistance in efforts to adequately fund the Bureau of Reclamation.

Sincerely,

Douglas Karafa, President  
Western Coalition of Arid States

G. Wade Miller, Executive Director  
WateReuse Association

Craig Smith, Executive Director  
Family Farm Alliance

Roger Waters, President  
National Urban Agriculture Council

Tom Donnelly, Executive Vice President  
National Water Resources Association

Stephen K. Hall, Executive Director  
Association of California Water Agencies

Anita Winkler, Executive Director  
Oregon Water Resources Congress

Michael Dwyer, Executive Director  
Upper Missouri Water Association

Norm Semanko, Director  
Idaho Water Users Association