



July 29, 2002

The Honorable Gordon Smith  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

*VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 224-3753*

Dear Senator Smith:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I am writing to voice our support for your legislation, the Small Reclamation Water Resources Act of 2001 (S. 1882).

As water users in Oregon and the 16 other Western States, our members understand the importance of conserving our limited water supplies. S. 1882 would improve and reauthorize the Small Reclamation Project Loan Program that was discontinued during the previous Administration. The legislation provides both loans and grants to assist irrigation districts, municipalities and other water related organizations to develop and implement water conservation, water quality improvements, water management for urban landscapes, drought assistance, fish and wildlife improvements as well as public safety project improvements.

Our members found the previous Small Reclamation Project Loan Program to be very helpful in resolving difficult water supply problems. S. 1882 maintains the utility of the program while adding flexibility to address our current and future water challenges.

Passage of this legislation will greatly aid in the development and expansion of local water programs in California and the other Reclamation states.

Once again, NWRA supports S 1882 and we look forward to assisting you and your staff in building support for this needed legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Donnelly  
Executive Vice President