

July 16, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510.

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso,

On behalf of the membership of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I am writing to convey our strong support for the nomination of Camille Calimlim Touton to serve as Commissioner for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). As an organization that works very closely with the Reclamation we know how critical its mission is. Given the importance of Reclamation's mission it is essential to have a leader that understands the multifaceted complexity of western water from both a policy and a technical perspective. It is also imperative that the individual leading Reclamation have a track record of working collaboratively with Reclamation customers and stakeholders. Ms. Calimlim Touton exemplifies all of these characteristics. We strongly support her nomination and encourage her quick confirmation.

The NWRA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit federation of state water resources associations, regional associations, agricultural, and municipal water providers. Our members provide water and hydropower to approximately 50 million individuals, families, municipalities, agricultural producers, and other businesses in a manner that supports communities, the economy, and the environment. Our membership spans the Western United States as well as portions of the South Eastern United States. Our members work on a regular basis with Reclamation.

Ms. Calimlim Touton is well qualified to lead Reclamation. She has experience in the private sector as a Professional Engineer. She is also an experienced public servant, serving in the Obama Administration and in numerous congressional offices. Ms. Calimlim Touton has become widely recognized as one of the leading, and most respected, water experts on Capitol Hill.

The West faces a great challenge contending with a historic drought. Reclamation will play a major role helping our nation work through this drought of record. Ms. Calimlim Touton is well qualified to help Reclamation and the West through this trying time. We must work together to ensure that water resources can be developed, managed and conserved while preserving quality of life, providing a firm and safe water supply, and supporting diverse economies, agriculture, businesses, ecosystems and communities large and small. We welcome the opportunity to work with Ms. Calimlim Touton and the very able team which is already serving in the Bureau of Reclamation, in a collaborative and constructive manner. We strongly support her nomination and urge her swift confirmation.

Respectfully,



Ian Lyle
Executive Vice President
National Water Resources Association