



NORTH STERLING ID **Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District** Kansas Bostwick ID
 Loup River ID **Iliff ID** **Farwell ID** **LOGAN ID** SAN CARLOS IRRIGATION Sargent ID

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
 Majority Leader
 U.S. Senate
 S-221 Capitol Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
 Speaker of the House
 U.S. House of Representatives
 H-232 Capitol Building
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
 Republican Leader
 U.S. Senate
 S-230 Capitol Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
 Democratic Leader
 U.S. House of Representatives
 H-204 Capitol Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Re: \$70 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operation Program

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

As the West continues to see increasing pressure on its water resources, investing in our water infrastructure is essential to ensure communities, farms, and aquatic ecosystems are resilient to the frequent swings between drought and flood that have accelerated in recent years. One tool that has been especially successful in helping water managers throughout the west is the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed and Flood Prevention Operation (WFPO) program.

Funding from this program has been successfully deployed for projects ranging from irrigation modernization, water development for drought-stricken communities and irrigation districts, and flood protection, including flood plain reintegration.

To continue the important ongoing work by water managers to increase water security, we urge you to retain the \$70 million in programmatic funding for WFPO, including the preference for multi-benefit projects, that was included in the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Drug Administration spending bill.

Not only is this funding essential to addressing pressing water challenges, it will also ensure that preliminary funding from previous spending bills for planning and compliance is able to proceed to construction.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and for all of your leadership on agriculture and water management issues. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Keppen at Family Farm Alliance (dan@familyfarmalliance.org).

Sincerely,

Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona
Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District (COLORADO)
Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District
Colorado Ag Water Alliance Colorado River District
Columbia Basin Development League (WASHINGTON)
Deschutes Basin Board of Control (OREGON)
- *Arnold Irrigation District*
- *Central Oregon Irrigation District*
- *North Unit Irrigation District*
- *Ochoco Irrigation District*
- *Swalley Irrigation District*
- *Three Sisters Irrigation District*
- *Tumalo Irrigation District*
- *Lone Pine Irrigation District*
East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Elephant Butte Irrigation District (NEW MEXICO)
Farmers Conservation Alliance
Family Farm Alliance
Family Water Alliance (CALIFORNIA)
Farwell Irrigation District (NEBRASKA)
Greenfields Irrigation District (MONTANA)
Idaho Water Users Association
Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District (KANSAS)
Kittitas Reclamation District (WASHINGTON)
Klamath Water Users Association (OREGON)
Iliff Irrigation District (COLORADO)
Logan Irrigation District (COLORADO)
Loup Basin Reclamation District (NEBRASKA)

Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA)
Milk River Joint Board of Control (MONTANA)
Monterey County Farm Bureau (CALIFORNIA)
Monterey County Water Resources Agency (CALIFORNIA)
National Water Resources Association
New Magma Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA)
North Sterling Irrigation District (COLORADO)
Orange Cove Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Water Resources Congress
Roza Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Salt River Project (ARIZONA)
San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA)
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (CALIFORNIA)
Sargent Irrigation District (NEBRASKA)
Solana Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (WASHINGTON)
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (NEVADA)
Turlock Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA)
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Water Resources Association

cc: Hon. Patty Murray, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Susan Collins, Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Martin Heinrich, Chair, Senate Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development and Drug Administration Subcommittee
Hon. John Hoeven, Chair, Senate Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development and Drug Administration Subcommittee
Hon. Kay Granger, Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee
Hon. Rosa Delauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Hon. Andy Harris, Chairman, House Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development and Drug Administration Subcommittee
Hon. Sanford Bishop, Jr., Ranking Member, House Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development and Drug Administration Subcommittee