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January 30, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Huffman:

The WateReuse Association writes to express our support for the Furthering Underutilized Technologies and Unleashing Responsible Expenditures for Drought Resiliency Act (FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act), which reauthorizes U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Competitive Grants Program (Title XVI-WIIN). In addition to this critical reauthorization provision, the legislation includes significant investments for desalination, groundwater recharge and storage, and additional tools and resources for water resources management and ecosystem restoration.

The WateReuse Association is a not-for-profit trade association for water utilities, businesses, industrial and commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations, and research entities that engage in and on water recycling. WateReuse and its state and regional sections represent more than 200 water utilities serving over 60 million customers, and over 300 businesses and organizations across the country. We strongly support policies and programs that advance water recycling as a tool for enhanced water resources management.

Title XVI is the only federal program focused on funding water recycling projects in the Western states. Water projects funded through Title XVI have been used to increase the supply of fresh drinking water, generate sustainable irrigation water, deal with saltwater intrusion issues, and restore marshes, wetlands, and other habitat, among other uses. The program helps both urban and rural communities across the West build a strong and secure economic future.

In 2016, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act authorized the appropriation of \$50 million, available until expended, for competitive grants through Title XVI. With the enactment of recent appropriations bills, this limit was quickly met. Moreover, there are currently 55 Title XVI-WIIN eligible projects awaiting assistance, with a total of more than \$550 million in eligible federal cost-share. This list will only grow as more projects become eligible. Therefore, it is critical to reauthorize and grow the program to support the continued advancement of water reuse in the West.

We applaud you for your vision and your efforts in addressing critical water resource challenges. We are excited to work with you in the weeks ahead to reauthorize the Title XVI-WIIN program and the Desalination and Water Purification Program, another important tool in the Western water management toolbox.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Greg Fogel, WaterReuse Association at gfogel@watereuse.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pat. Sinicropi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Sinicropi
Executive Director

