

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen:

The Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] represents over 100 resource agencies, consulting engineering firms, attorneys, and other professionals who advocate for water resources in the Arid West. We are writing to ask for your consideration to recede to the \$885,187,000 level of funding provided in the Senate version of the FY12 Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the Bureau's Water and Related Resources account. We appreciate the fact that your bill also increased funding over the Administration request. But the Senate version, while still being a cut when compared to FY11 funding, provides an additional \$80,483,000 which is desperately needed in Texas and throughout the other Bureau States.

Our members face a host of challenges in carrying out their mission including population growth, drought, regulatory and water allocation issues. Funding partnerships with the Bureau represent an important component part of our effort to secure the future. This won't be possible unless people like you make sure that Bureau funding remains essentially intact during these difficult budgetary times.

WESTCAS will be expressing our strong support to our Congressional delegations and to your counterparts at the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee that the Senate funding level for the Bureau's Water and Related Resources account be retained in whatever final version the bill may take. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,