

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 16, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-3703

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0203

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We are grateful for your work on drought this year and strongly encourage continued effort on west-wide drought legislation in January. Over the past several months, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee has shown both the desire and capacity to tackle drought head-on, holding three hearings and reporting a number of water and drought-related bills out of committee. We hope that the momentum will continue unabated.

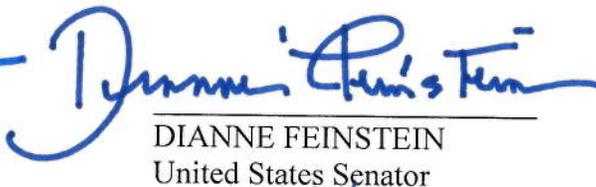
Drought is one of the most significant issues facing our states and the nation. Nearly 75 percent of the Western United States faced drought conditions this year, affecting nearly 93 million Americans, according to the Congressional Research Service. Many western communities, especially in rural areas, continue to struggle to meet their water supply needs. As you are aware, reliable access to water is fundamental to western economies. We stand ready to continue to work with you to meet this challenge.

We appreciate that under your leadership the committee has been very active in bringing together multiple drought bills and proposals in an effort to address the drought facing our states. We are hopeful that the committee can successfully advance, through regular order, drought legislation that will ultimately be signed into law. We are ready to work with you to achieve that goal.

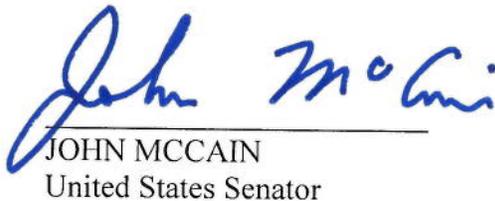
Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE  
United States Senator



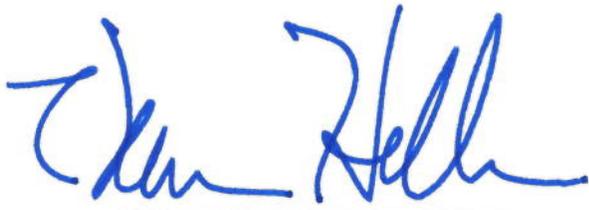
DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator



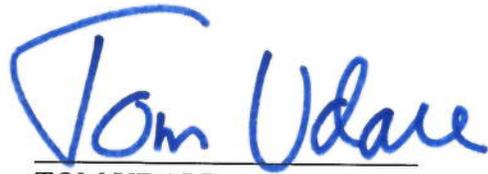
JOHN MCCAIN  
United States Senator



MARTIN HEINRICH  
United States Senator



DEAN HELLER  
United States Senator



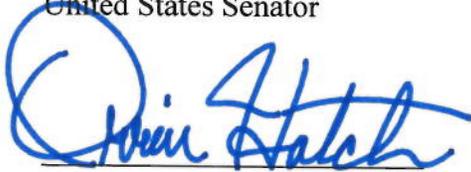
TOM UDALL  
United States Senator



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET  
United States Senator



ORRIN HATCH  
United States Senator