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February 7, 2022

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva,

Please accept this letter in support of the Climate Adaptation Science Centers Act (CASC Act).

Since 2011, the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (SW CASC), a partnership between the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and a consortium of regional research institutions led by the University of Arizona (UA), has been one of the UA's flagship programs for developing scientific research that is both useful and usable to natural and cultural resource managers in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah. The SW CASC model of operation is to partner with natural and cultural resource managers; gain an understanding of their research needs and the constraints within which they operate; and then collaborate to produce actionable science that meets partners' needs for information that can increase the resilience of the natural resources they manage in the face of extreme weather and climate changes. This model resonates with the land-grant mission of the University of Arizona, and the products of CASC research exemplify the kind of engaged, impactful research to which the University aspires.

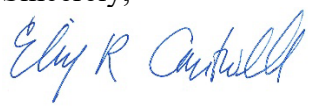
For the last decade, the CASC Program has brought together communities of researchers and field practitioners to improve the resilience of nation's water resources, forest, grassland, riparian and coastal ecosystems. SW CASC actionable science research has benefited Arizona state agencies, Tribal natural resource managers, and fire managers. For example, the CASC Program has funded researchers to work with water managers on the Colorado River—the lifeblood of Arizona's urban and agricultural economies. CASC science answered managers' questions about the role of temperature in diminishing Colorado River flows, helping them to anticipate drought and steward this critical resource in the best-informed manner.

The CASC Act would reauthorize the program, which is important for maintaining the consistency of CASC research programs, as well as the services that the USGS program of national and regional CASCs provides to partners across the United States. Authorization of the CASC Program would provide stability and enhance the dependability of the program—features necessary for maintaining the trust of stakeholders and partners in Arizona and other

southwestern states. In Arizona, the Act would expand the capacity and increase the flexibility of the SW CASC to train early career scientists and Tribal natural resource managers, to build capacity for our region and our nation to prepare for extremes in weather and climate.

On behalf of the University of Arizona, I thank you for your committed support for the CASC Program and your leadership in introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



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