

March 26, 2019

RE: Drought Contingency Plans in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Member of Congress,

As business leads with major operations in the Southwest and Colorado River basin, we write to support the seven Colorado River basin states' request that Congress move forward with federal legislation supporting implementation of approved Drought Contingency Plans (DCPs). The states' collective agreement to move forward on these plans comes after years of negotiations, with states pledging proactive conservation measures to safeguard Colorado River water supplies and protect water levels in Lake Mead.

We request that Congress now work to pass companion federal legislation authorizing implementation of the DCPs through the Secretary of the Interior.

Across economic sectors, business operators increasingly recognize the challenges drought has brought to the Southwest and all the Colorado River basin states. Uncertainty around water availability and pricing, combined with pressures from population growth, threaten business operations, economic prosperity, business innovation, investment, and financing.

Businesses need certainty to hire, invest in new facilities and equipment, and continue growing our economy. Right now, companies across the Southwest are facing real risk of water shortage. All seven Colorado basin states have reached agreement through coordinated DCPs, providing a critical step in addressing the region's complex water supply issues. DCP also provides interim security on reservoir operations and water management while longer-term solutions are under negotiation, ensuring that the seven basin states maintain a coordinated dedication to water conservation during negotiations and planning for a drier future.

As a next step, decisive federal passage of DCP implementation legislation is essential to provide a secure water future for agriculture, industry, cities and communities.

Our companies and business organizations have already stepped up to urge state leaders to prioritize drought planning, and many in our group are already taking voluntary steps to reduce our water footprints, conserve water, and contribute to a secure water future.

We look forward to working with you on implementation of federal legislation on the DCPs.

Sincerely,



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