

July 19, 2019 (updated)

Honorable Josh Harder
131 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rob Wittman
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Morgan Griffith
2202 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Harder, Wittman, Napolitano, and Griffith,

We, the undersigned, are writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 3510, the Water Resources Research Act of 2019 (WRRRA), and to express our support for the legislation. As stakeholders with national and state water interests, we support the reauthorization of this long-standing water research program that helps water utilities, urban and agricultural users and water providers understand and address critical water issues.

First authorized in 1964, WRRRA supports water institutes in all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. These institutes provide a state-based network dedicated to studying and solving regional problems related to water quantity and quality. Each state contributes at least a 1:1 match, thus ensuring that local priorities are addressed, and the impact of federal dollars is maximized. In partnership with the USGS, the institutes have a 50-year history of delivering assistance to water-users in states in an efficient and non-duplicative manner.

As the nation's water challenges increase, the institutes are poised to grow their partnership with USGS to tackle key problems related to water security, water quality, and water availability. The funds from this program support exceptional long-term water planning and management in areas such as combating harmful algal blooms, mitigating drought effects, understanding the role of microplastics in water supplies, and protecting against soil erosion. The institutes collaborate with over 150 state agencies, 180 federal agencies, and more than 165 local and municipal offices. In a given year, Federal dollars are leveraged to support over 350 students in training, over 200 research projects and more than 550 researchers.

While Congress continues to support the WRRRA program annually through the appropriations process, the program is due to be reauthorized. We know how critical reauthorizations are, and we are grateful for your efforts to advance this process forward.

Signed,

Ag Innovations, Sebastopol, California
Astig Planning LLC, Iowa
Biological Laboratory Chicago, IL
BlueWater Kentucky

California Cotton Alliance
California Water Institute, California State University, Fresno, California
Center for Irrigation Technology, California State University, Fresno, California
City of Newark, OH Division of Water and Wastewater
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Natural Resources
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Management and Land Reuse
Connecticut Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section
Des Moines Water Works, Iowa
Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc.
Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Labs, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Las Cruces, NM
Emmons & Olivier Resources Inc., Iowa
Environmental Federation of Oklahoma
Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Massachusetts
Friends of Wolf Run
Green Mountain Conservation Group, New Hampshire
Guam Waterworks Authority
Headwaters Inc.
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, Recovery Division
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas State University
Kentucky Infrastructure Authority
Kentucky River Watershed Watch
Kentucky Riverkeeper
Kentucky Waterways Alliance
Lake Roosevelt Forum, Washington State
Maker's Mark Distillery, Kentucky
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Agricultural Assurance Program
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation
Montana Watershed Coordination Council
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division
New Mexico Cattle Growers Association
Northern California Water Association
Ohio American Water Works Association

Ohio State University, Office of Research
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Oklahoma Water Science Center
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Massachusetts
Rio Farms, King City, CA
River Keepers, New York
Sonoma Water, California
Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc Virginia
Spokane River Forum, Washington State
Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District
Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota
Sustainable Conservations, San Francisco CA
Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, New York
Terranova Ranch Inc, Helm, CA
The Fertilizer Institute
The Freshwater Society, MN
The Nature Conservancy, Montana
Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR)
University of Kansas
University of Washington Climate Impacts Group
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Water Monitoring Council
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State University
Water Education Foundation, Sacramento, CA
Water Resources and Policy Initiatives, California State University
Water UCI, California
Western States Water Council
Western Washington University

Cc:

Rep. Jared Huffman

Rep. Tom McClintock

BlueWater Kentucky <http://bluewaterky.com/>
Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc. <https://kypride.org/>
Friends of Wolf Run www.WolfRunWater.org
Headwaters Inc. <https://kyheadwaters.org/>
Kentucky Infrastructure Authority <http://kia.ky.gov>
Kentucky Waterways Alliance www.KWAlliance.org
Kentucky Riverkeeper <https://kyriverkeeper.org/>
Kentucky River Watershed Watch <http://www.krww.org/>
Maker's Mark Distillery <https://www.makersmark.com/distillery>