



November 19, 2021

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Chairman  
 Committee on Natural Resources  
 1324 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking  
 Member  
 Committee on Natural Resources  
 1329 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman,

As an array of stakeholders dedicated to advancing sustainable water management, we write in strong support of H.R.4832- Open Access Evapotranspiration Data Act. Sustainable water management is one of the most challenging issues of our time, and lack of consistent consumptive water use data has been a major obstacle in overcoming this challenge. OpenET, supported by H.R 4832, fills this huge data gap in order to support sustainable water management and innovation in water conservation. OpenET provides access to evapotranspiration data, giving growers, water managers, and regulators a common and reliable data source for tracking this key component of the water budget. This information is urgently needed as we work to respond to record-setting drought conditions across the West, and will enable a host of innovative water management strategies at all levels of decision-making.

H.R. 4832 would implement an OpenET Data Program at USGS for delivering satellite-based evapotranspiration data to advance the quantification of evaporative losses and consumptive water use, and to provide data users with field-scale estimates of ET data across large landscapes. Specifically, it would authorize up to \$14 million per year to:

- Sustain and advance the technology and underlying science for OpenET;
- Coordinate among federal agencies on the incorporation and use of data from OpenET into models, reports, and decision-support tools;

- Provide grants to states to help them operationalize the use of OpenET; and
- Support training workshops and coordination with local water managers and growers to continue to integrate data from OpenET into farm and ranch management tools, as well as local water management accounting platforms and other tools.

H.R. 4832 builds upon decades of investment by NASA, USGS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop, launch, and operate a constellation of Earth-observing satellites. H.R. 4832 leverages this public investment by integrating with—and advancing—the ground data systems required to capture, process, store, and distribute satellite data. With swift passage of H.R. 4832, Congress can ensure that farmers and water and land managers are able to develop more accurate water budgets and innovative management programs that promote adequate water supplies for agriculture, people and ecosystems.

Thank you,

California Central Delta Water Agency  
California South Delta Water Agency  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
Central Utah Water Conservancy District  
E&J Gallo Wineries  
Environmental Defense Fund  
National Audubon Society  
Nevada Division of Water Resources  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Water Foundation  
Western States Water Council  
Wyoming State Engineer's Office