CWL

The Honorable Cliff Bentz

Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries

1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman

Ranking Member

House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries

409 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2023

Re: Letter of Support for HR 4219 the Southwestern Power Administration Fund Establishment Act

Dear Chairman Bentz and Ranking Member Huffman,

City Water and Light Plant of the City of Jonesboro (CWL) writes to provide a letter of support for HR 4219 the Southwestern Power Administration Fund Establishment Act. CWL is a municipal improvement district operating as a consolidated utility district. Formed in 1906, CWL provides water, wastewater, and electricity to the citizens of Jonesboro, AR. CWL currently serves 40,271 electric meters, 38,807 water meters, and 26,084 wastewater customers. Approximately 7,000 of CWL's water meters lie outside the city limits in the counties of Craighead, Greene, and Poinsett.

CWL strongly supports HR 4219, the Southwestern Power Fund Establishment Act (Act). Not only does this Act more fully allow Southwestern to operate at the "lowest possible rate consistent with sounds business principles", but it also costs the taxpayers nothing. Unlike Southwestern's current funding model that relies on appropriations which are repaid every year through power sales rates, the Act allows Southwestern to operate like a utility. With increased funding certainty to anticipate and plan for weather events and other impacting issues, Southwestern would not only save its customers money it would ensure enhanced grid reliability across the Midwest.

As a proud federal hydropower customer, I appreciate your consideration of this Bill and offer my strong support. This is a time that Congress can help cut the unnecessary red tape and make the program better.

Thank you,

Jake Rice, III
Manager