



David C. Roberts
Associate General Manager, Water Resources
PAB232 | P.O. Box 52025
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025
P: (602) 236-2343 | C: (602) 818-7747
Email: Dave.Roberts@srpnet.com

May 2, 2022

Chairman Raul Grijalva
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Bruce Westerman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

On behalf of Salt River Project (SRP), I am writing to share support for swift approval of H.R. 5880, *a bill to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010*, legislation introduced by Arizona Congressman Tom O'Halleran.

Passage of H.R. 5880 is necessary for the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) to complete an important water infrastructure project authorized in 2010. Unforeseen technical delays and cost-overruns in planning and design have resulted in a need to revise the initial enactment of the WMAT settlement. H.R. 5880 provides a necessary deadline extension for the Tribe to complete the White Mountain Apache Rural Water System and Miner Flat Dam project. The legislation also authorizes the use of additional federal funds needed to complete the project.

SRP is thankful for the dedication of Congressman O'Halleran to deliver this legislation for the Tribe, which will ultimately secure clean, reliable drinking water for Tribal members on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, including Whiteriver, Fort Apache, Canyon Day, Cedar Creek, Carrizo and Cibecue.

The Salt River Project is comprised of the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District. SRP, formed in 1903, is the Phoenix metropolitan area's largest supplier of raw water, delivering more than 800,000 acre-feet annually to municipal, urban and agricultural water users. SRP has a long history of actively working with Native American communities throughout the state to address concerns about water supplies, identify alternative supply options to meet demands, and collaborate on programs to resolve water resource conflicts.

Much of the surface water supply delivered by SRP to its water users in the Phoenix metropolitan area originates in the White Mountains in eastern Arizona, which is also the homeland of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Over the years, SRP has enjoyed a friendship and partnership with the Tribe on a number of initiatives including watershed management, forest restoration

efforts, and STEM education. We look forward to H.R. 5880 being enacted and continuing this partnership as the WMAT drinking water infrastructure project is completed.

SRP is thankful for Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman's leadership at the House Committee on Natural Resources, and attention to H.R. 5880 and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Sincerely,



Dave Roberts

cc: Congressman Tom O'Halleran