

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20150

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20150

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. As you continue work on the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, I respectfully request that the legislation direct the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a pilot study to determine the best strategies to promote water conservation and storage at reservoirs and dams in the Western United States.

Historic drought conditions throughout the western United States, and particularly in Arizona, require a whole of government approach to conserving and storing scarce water resources. While the Army Corps has expertise in managing dams and reservoirs throughout the country, the Corps has historically done less work in the western United States compared to other parts of the country, and lacks authority to collaborate with other federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Reclamation, on best practices water conservation and sediment mitigation studies.

Therefore, I ask that the 2022 WRDA bill require the Army Corps to carry out a comprehensive study on the effectiveness of various interventions at and upstream of federally owns reservoirs and dams, including in partnership with other federal agencies, to reduce water loss, increase storage capacity, and protect federal reservoirs in response to changing drought conditions. As a part of this pilot study, the Corps should be required to carry out projects in coordination with local governments, tribes, and other federal partners, to demonstrate new and innovative strategies to mitigate drought conditions at reservoirs in the western United States.

Thank you again for your ongoing leadership and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator