

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2025

Douglass Burgum
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

David Palumbo
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary Burgum and Acting Commissioner Palumbo,

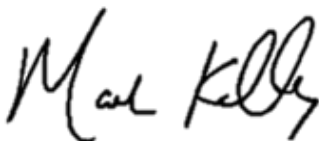
We write because we are receiving reports from constituents that Bureau of Reclamation funding has been paused. The Colorado River is in the midst of a historic drought, and our constituents are working on solutions to keep the river flowing. This winter snowpack accumulation is below average, so we need to do everything we can to improve conservation. This means making sure projects receive support and funding.

Given that, we are very concerned that stopping funding to the Lower Basin Conservation and Efficiency Program has the potential to harm future water conservation because in order to save water next year, infrastructure must be put in place that allows water users to meet their agreements this year. These projects will also create flexibility for water managers by creating infrastructure that can reduce the reliance on the Colorado River. However, this is not the only program that would suffer from frozen Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funds. For example, repairs at Glen Canyon Dam will be delayed by the freezing of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding sources.

Freezing funds for these agreements with irrigation districts, cities, and tribes could undo the collaboration and careful planning needed to keep the Colorado River flowing in years to come. In addition, payment uncertainty can have significant negative effects on project implementation and lead to projects and companies collapsing.

Accordingly, we ask that you take the steps necessary to ensure that all Bureau of Reclamation funding be made available for their congressionally intended purposes.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator