



"Serving Western Legislatures"

**Council of State Governments-WEST**

1107 Ninth Street  
Suite 650  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
PHONE 916-553-4423  
FAX 916-446-5760  
E-MAIL csgw@csg.org  
WEB www.csgwest.org

August 21, 2003

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici  
United States Senate  
SH-328 HSOB  
Washington, DC 20510-3101

The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
SH-511 HSOB  
Washington, DC 20510-2602

**OFFICERS**

- Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senator, Hawaii  
**Chair**
- Bart M. Davis  
Senate Majority Leader  
Idaho  
**Chair-Elect**
- Kate Brown  
Senate Democratic Leader  
Oregon  
**Vice-Chair**
- Lynn Hettrick  
Assembly Minority Leader  
Nevada  
**Immediate Past Chair**
- Kent Briggs  
**Executive Director**

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2235 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0923

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  
U.S. House of Representatives  
516 CHOB  
Washington, DC 20515-2601

Dear Senators: Domenici  
Baucus

Dear Representatives: Hastings  
Rehberg

On behalf of The Council of State Governments-WEST, we extend our appreciation to you for introducing the National Drought Preparedness Act of 2003. (S. 1454, H.R. 2871) CSG-WEST is a thirteen state organization of western legislatures working on issues of common concern to our region such as the drought that has fastened on the West over the past several years.

Drought afflicts some part of the United States every year. Although the impacts of drought are not as dramatic as floods or hurricanes, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center, the federal government spends between \$6 to 8 billion dollars a year on drought compared to \$2.5 billion on floods and \$1 to 5 billion on hurricanes. S. 1454 and its companion H.R. 2871 are critical because the nation needs a national drought policy that focuses as much on drought mitigation as drought response. Although there will always be a need for drought response programs, we need to develop and implement a national drought plan in conjunction with state and local governments that ensures long-term water delivery system for both urban and rural uses. Planning, monitoring and forecasting must all be part of an integrated national policy.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Energy & Public Lands**  
Robert A. Peck  
Senator, Wyoming

**Fiscal Affairs**  
Dwight Y. Takamine  
Representative, Hawaii

**Trade & Transportation**  
Gayle Berry  
Representative, Colorado

**Western Legislative  
Futures Forum**  
Bart M. Davis  
Senator, Idaho

**Western Water  
& Environment**  
Jim Honeyford  
Senator, Washington

**WESTRENDS**  
Kate Brown  
Senator, Oregon

**Legislative Service Directors**  
Carl Bianchi, Director  
Legislative Services, Idaho

