

August 5, 2002

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici

Dear Congressman Hastings and Senator Domenici:

This letter is in support of H. R. 4754 and S. 2528, the National Drought Preparedness Act of 2002.

For the past three decades the Ohio River Basin Commission has been an advocate of preparing for drought rather than reacting to it. Since 1995 it has worked with the National Drought Mitigation Center in its efforts to help states develop effective drought programs. More recently, former ORBC Chairman Leon Smothers of Kentucky served on the National Drought Policy Commission.

Dealing with drought on a proactive basis requires a cooperative and coordinative effort from all levels of government that emphasizes programs that are aimed at reducing impacts of future droughts as well as dealing with present ones. Your bills support this approach.

The Act's further support of a national drought policy, the creation of an assistance fund for developing drought programs, support for research, and the creation of a monitoring network are all elements of an overall approach to dealing with drought that the Commission believes will be effective.

With many areas of the nation in the throes of drought the legislation is timely and deserves the support of your colleagues. We look forward to its passage and implementation.

Best wishes in your efforts,

Michael Neyer,
Chairman
Ohio River Basin Commission

