



WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

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Web Page: [www.westgov.org/hvswc](http://www.westgov.org/hvswc)

July 11, 2008

Position No. 301

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II, Chair  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young, Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano, Chair  
Water and Power Subcommittee  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1522 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member, Water and Power Subcommittee  
House Natural Resources Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H2-186 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall, Ranking Member Young, Chairwoman Napolitano and Ranking Member Rodgers:

On behalf of the Western States Water Council and our 18 member states, I'm writing to again comment on H.R. 135, to establish the "Twenty-First Century Water Commission." As previously communicated, the Council's mission is to promote cooperation among its member states in the sustainable management and development of water resources in the West.

To this end, the Council and the Western Governors' Association adopted a June 2006 report, "Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future," and recently the governors adopted a June 2008 "Next Steps" report further refining current needs and strategies.

As we have said in the past, if such a commission is to be created, it will be important that it represent the diverse interests that exist, including State and Native American involvement. The Western States Water Council should be involved in the selection of members.

Further, the Commission should study the current water management programs of tribes (under Section 1(b)(2), as well as Federal, interstate, State and local agencies and private sector entities).

We look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garland Erbele".

Garland Erbele, Chairman  
Western States Water Council