

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

March 9, 2021

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 the committee prepares to consider legislation to reauthorize Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act programs, I write to ask that the committee reauthorize the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program and expand the program to allow Arizona tribal communities to participate in the program.

As you know, too many Arizona tribal communities still lack access to running water and wastewater infrastructure. And a legacy of mining and resource extraction in tribal communities has contaminated drinking water in too many tribal communities. As drought conditions in Arizona continue to worsen, it is more critical than ever that Arizona tribes have the resources to plan and execute water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 directed the EPA to establish a \$20 million pilot program, called the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program, to fund drinking water projects in tribal communities. Unfortunately, the language included in AWIA targeted this funding to specific tribes, and no tribes in Arizona are currently eligible for this funding. As this committee considers legislation to reauthorize key drinking water programs, I ask that the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program be reauthorized to allow Arizona tribal water projects to apply for funding under this program, and that the program be authorized at a higher level.

Arizona's tribal communities are in dire need of additional federal support to strengthen our tribal water and wastewater infrastructure, and I look forward to working with you both to ensure that Arizona's tribes receive the resources they need. Thank you again for your ongoing leadership.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator