

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

April 28, 2022

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
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 you continue work on the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, I respectfully request that the legislation provide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) with the authority to address drought risk management and water supply conservation needs when planning, constructing, and operating water resources development projects and programs.

While the Corps provides storage for municipal and industrial water supply in many reservoirs it operates, there is no permanent authority for the Corps to formulate or modify water resources development projects to reduce drought risk and conserve water supplies. Consequently, many opportunities are being missed to make communities in the western United States that are served by the Corps' navigation, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration projects more resilient to the damaging effects of increasingly frequent, sustained, and severe drought conditions.

As Arizona faces historic and worsening drought conditions, I ask that the WRDA 2022 bill expand the authority of the Army Corps to begin work on projects which seek to preserve water supplies, support water conservation, or otherwise mitigate drought impacts. Broadening the Corps authorities will allow communities in Arizona and throughout the western United States to benefit from the engineering expertise and funding resources provided by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Thank you again for your ongoing leadership and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is stylized with a large "M" and a cursive "Kelly".

Mark Kelly
United States Senator