

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

December 4, 2015

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Energy and Water Development, and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mary Kaptur
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development, and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Fleming
Chairman
Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee
Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson, Chairman Fleming, Ranking Member Kaptur and Ranking Member Huffman:

Over the past two years, Arizona based power customers have expressed serious concerns regarding increased Corporate Services Office (CSO) overhead costs they are being asked to pay due to the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) budget growth. By many estimates costs have increased by over 63% over the past 8 years. We share our constituents concerns and believe further congressional inquiry into WAPA's CSO direct and indirect increases is warranted.

An October 22 letter [enclosed] signed by officials from the Arizona Municipal Power Users Association (AMPUA), the Irrigation and Electric Districts' Association of Arizona (IEDA), and the Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association (GCSECA) succinctly expresses the budgetary and policy problems these public power and electric cooperative associations encounter.

The letter underscores the perceived need that Western should be more transparent and forthcoming with power customers. In budget materials provided to Congress, WAPA should "unpack" CSO funding to provide all interested parties greater visibility on how funds are

utilized; and WAPA should document the need for rising CSO costs and CSO growth, in particular. Increases in spending on CSO costs must be reasonable and based on actual needs.

It is our understanding language requiring WAPA to provide a report to congress with detailed accounting of its budget authority has been proposed by Senate Appropriations, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development for inclusion in the fiscal year 2016 budget currently under discussion.

We strongly support this language. Accordingly, we ask that as you work to finalize the year-end funding legislation that you include language similar to the following in all relevant appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2016:

“Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, WAPA shall provide a report to the Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress with a detailed accounting of its allocation of the budget authority provided in this Act, categorized by region (including Headquarters), and including the number of contractors and FTEs funded during this fiscal year.”

Inclusion of such language would be an important step in strengthening government transparency and empowering customers who are responsible for paying for energy generation, transmission and Western’s operational costs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of including this important language in the fiscal year 2016 budget currently under discussion. Your leadership on your respective committees is most appreciated.

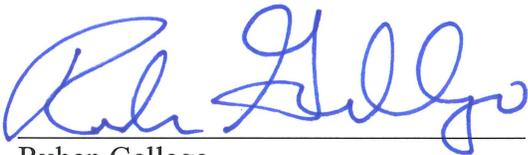
Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



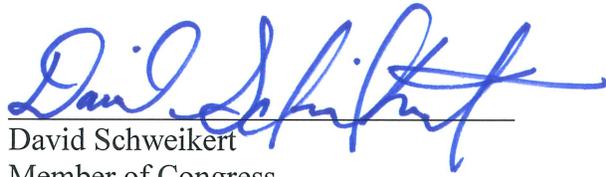
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



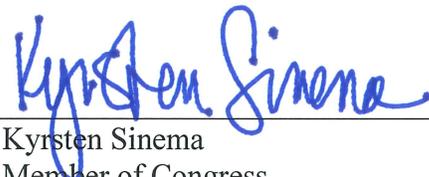
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress