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United States Senate

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February 12, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

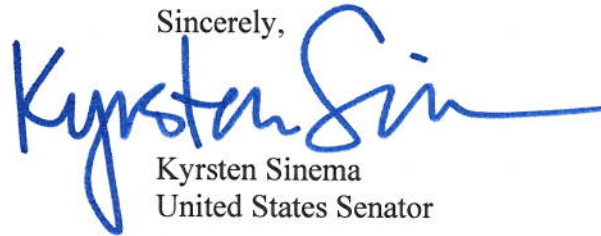
Thank you for your continued leadership on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. As you begin work on the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, I respectfully request that you include language in the bill supporting flood management efforts for the Lower Santa Cruz River watershed.

The Lower Santa Cruz River begins in southern Arizona and flows northward from the U.S. border with Mexico into southern Arizona. As it travels through Pinal County, the river flows through a mixed system of channelized and poorly defined streams, which can flood during heavy rainfall events. Despite a history of flooding in the area, no flood control projects have been constructed in the Lower Santa Cruz River watershed.

In 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced its intention to conduct a flood risk management feasibility study for the Lower Santa Cruz River. USACE is expected to release a final Record of Decision and Chief's Report in late 2020. While I support these ongoing efforts, I also recognize the importance of ensuring that the nearby Gila River Indian Community is sufficiently consulted as USACE prepares to complete its feasibility study. I therefore request that the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 include language directing USACE to engage in a robust stakeholder discussion on its proposals for flood control in the Lower Santa Cruz River prior to finalizing a Record of Decision or Chief's Report for the Lower Santa Cruz River project.

Thank you for your important work and leadership on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyrsten Sinema". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator