

KYRSTEN SINEMA
ARIZONA

317 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4521

3333 E. CAMELBACK RD, SUITE 200
PHOENIX, AZ 85018
(602) 598-7327

20 E. OCHOA ST
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 639-7080

<http://sinema.senate.gov>

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 authorizing flood management efforts for the Little Colorado River Levee Project.

Winslow is a city in Navajo County, Arizona located near the Little Colorado River. More than one third of the city's population are elderly or children, and one third speak either Navajo or Spanish as their primary language. Winslow is also home to Native American families who relocated from the Navajo Nation in the 1990s.

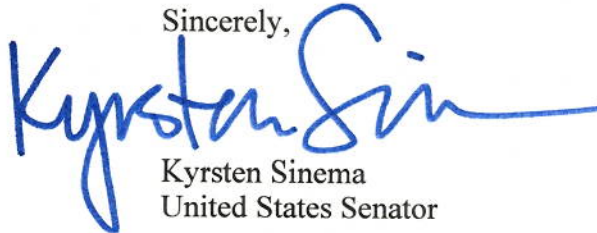
The city of Winslow and surrounding area are at risk of flooding under moderate to high-flow flood events on the Little Colorado River. The existing levee system along the Little Colorado River is at risk of failure, posing a grave threat to the entire town of Winslow, which lies in the floodplain. Additionally, the risk of flooding in the area poses a risk to the BNSF railroad bridge that crosses the river. More than \$35 billion in freight crosses this bridge annually, providing a direct link between Chicago and the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

In 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for flood control improvements along the Little Colorado River. The final recommendations include reconstructing the levee system, protecting the BNSF railroad bridge from future flooding risk, and installing a flood warning system. The Army Corps of Engineers found that these recommendations had a significant benefit-cost ratio, and would protect the lives and safety of Winslow residents. I therefore request that the Water

Resources Development Act of 2020 authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the flood control plan as laid out in the 2018 final report.

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.

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator