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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 authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study on flood management activities for the Tonto Creek watershed in Gila County, Arizona.

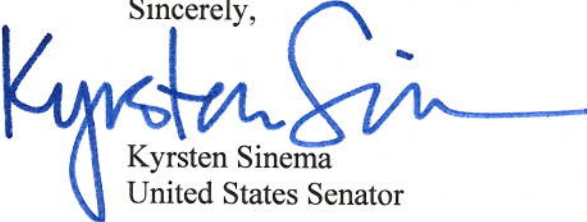
Heavy rainfall and snowmelt frequently cause severe flooding on Tonto Creek, limiting access to schools, jobs, and health care facilities in the Tonto Basin community. For nearly a decade, Gila County has sought federal support to mitigate the risk of flooding for the community.

The lack of flood mitigation has had devastating consequences for the local community. As the Rawlings family attempted to cross Tonto Creek during a flood event in November 2019, three children were killed when their vehicle was swept away. This loss shocked all Arizonans, and underscored the necessity of investing in flood mitigation along Tonto Creek.

Without flood mitigation, eight people have been killed since 1995 and yearly road closures average 25 days. More must be done to protect lives and foster economic opportunity in one of the fastest-growing regions of Gila County. I therefore request that the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study on flood management activities along Tonto Creek.

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

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator