



Greg Gianforte
Congress of the United States
Montana

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

I write to urge you to include language in the upcoming Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2019 which would continue support for the following programs:

- Continued support for the Wildland Fire Partnership within the Forest Service's Forest and Rangeland Research – Joint Fire Science Program. This is important for improvement of current firefighting operations and safety and health of firefighters.
- Continued support for the Range-Wide Analysis of Species Data program within the Fish and Wildlife Services' Cooperative Landscape Conservation account. This would continue efforts by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to establish a platform to conduct range-wide species analyses with input from biologists and state agency representatives.
- Robust funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Construction Account to continue Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses associated with the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System (ASRWS).
- Continued support for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund Program. This program is important to clean up contaminated land, as well as supporting technical assistance and community education.

Finally, I ask for language to help advance the date that the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act funds will be available to the Blackfeet Tribe. This money is crucial to begin update and repairs on the St. Mary's Water system. The language is as follows:

a. Section 3720(a)(3)(B) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements For the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322; 130 Stat. 1628) is amended by striking "3706" and inserting "6".

b. Expiration – Section 3720(h) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements For the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322; 130 Stat. 1628) is amended by striking “2026” and inserting “2025”.

c. Section 3718 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements For the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322; 130 Stat. 1628) is amended by adding subsection (c) that provides: “Notwithstanding sections 3716(e) and 3717(e), to the extent funds have been appropriated, fifty percent of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund and fifty percent of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Blackfeet Water Settlement Implementation Fund under this section shall be available to the Tribe and the Secretary in a manner consistent with this Title upon the signing of the waivers pursuant to section 3720(f)(8)”;

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress