

# Committee on Resources

resources.committee@mail.house.gov

[Home](#) [Press Gallery](#) [Subcommittees](#) [Issues](#) [Legislation](#) [Hearing Archives](#)

**Opening Statement of  
The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water and Power**

Committee on Resources  
Legislative Hearing on S. 943, H.R. 4588 and H.R. 4650  
10:00 a.m. - July 23, 2004

Today's hearing marks yet another important legislative step in providing more reliable water supplies to water deficient communities. All three bills before us today represent the varied approaches that western communities and the federal government can employ to combat water shortages.

The bill offered by our Wyoming Senate colleagues and our distinguished Committee colleague, Barbara Cubin, utilizes an existing surface storage facility to help provide the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming long-term water supplies. The bill also assists the City deliver minimum flows for fish.

Another bill, offered by our Committee colleagues, Ruben Hinojosa and Solomon Ortiz, authorizes construction for water projects in selected counties along the Texas-Mexico border. The bill cites reports and studies conducted by engineering firms and reviewed by the Bureau of Reclamation to implement water conservation and supply enhancement projects. Although this construction process does not adhere to the typical feasibility process supported by some in the environmental community and others, this bill follows similar projects implemented through two previous authorizations offered by our southern border colleagues. Needless to say, this bill will help the border communities enhance their water resources, however, we must still work together in the long-term to resolve Mexico's water debt to Texas.

The final bill, sponsored by our Kansas colleague Todd Tiahrt, provides mechanisms to improve aquifer recharge near the City of Wichita. This enhanced aquifer recharge and storage concept will help impede saline water intrusion and enhance Wichita's long-term water needs. This concept sounds similar to the Title 16 authorizations this Subcommittee has passed in this Congress and signed into law by the President.

These three bills today are important steps in providing water security. I hope my colleagues will agree with me on the need to move them forward in the process. In conclusion, I welcome and look forward to hearing my colleagues, the Administration and other witnesses here today.