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The Honorable Doug Lamborn
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lamborn,

On behalf of the Kennewick Irrigation District's (KID) Board of Directors, I write in support of your bill H.R.3281, the Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act.

KID provides water to over 20,200 acres of land, and 23,500 households which amounts to approximately 65,000 people in the Yakima Basin Project in Eastern Washington, State. In March 2017, KID's Board of Directors determined that title transfer is in the best interest of the district, its customers, and the community. Since then, KID has been working with Reclamation to transfer of a number of facilities that will be paid off and that the district already operates and manages.

On February 14, 2018, I had the privilege of testifying before your subcommittee on "The State of the Nation's Water and Power Infrastructure." My testimony touched on the growing challenges water providers face in their efforts to supply water including growing demand, aging infrastructure, and changing precipitation patterns. These factors require water managers to be as responsive, innovative, and efficient as possible. Transferring title to these facilities, where federal investments have been repaid, empowers water suppliers to better manage critical water resources and reduces federal liabilities. Title transfer would provide KID the opportunity to have more direct control of an important infrastructure asset and will provide value added service to our operations.

Once enacted into law, H.R. 3281 will ensure there is a workable title transfer process. Without it, irrigation districts seeking a title transfer would have to rely on Congress to specifically authorize their transfer. To date, Congress has only authorized 30 transfers.

We appreciate your leadership on the many issues facing our nation's water suppliers and urge passage of H.R. 3281.

Sincerely,

Charles Freeman
District Manager