



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: S.2533 - Support**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, I want to thank you for your continued leadership in addressing California's urgent drought conditions with the introduction of S.2533, the California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2016. Your legislation will help address critical water management challenges facing our state, its businesses, the agriculture industry, residents and the environment.

On August 18, 2015, Metropolitan adopted legislative priorities for federal drought legislation. S. 2533 represents significant legislative progress on nearly all of those priorities. Consistent with these priorities, the bill authorizes funding and provides regulatory assistance to regions affected by drought for immediate and long term projects to develop, store, treat and deliver water. The bill could also help ensure greater reliability for the State Water Project, Colorado River Aqueduct and local water supplies. These are just a few of the drought policies and priorities Metropolitan supports that would be advanced through passage of this comprehensive bill.

Metropolitan believes reauthorizing and authorizing funding for the Water Desalination Act of 1996 and authorizing additional funding for water recycling projects, as well as officially establishing the EPA WaterSense Program, will help Southern California continue to provide reliable supplies for the region. Metropolitan supports increasing local self-sufficiency among water agencies. S.2533 seeks to prioritize desalination demonstration project funding based on certain reliance criteria. Metropolitan believes S.2533 would be even stronger if it emphasized regional and local water self-sufficiency as the best approach for prioritizing eligibility for project funding, rather than referencing reduced reliance or offsets in demands. We would be pleased to follow-up with your staff on any recommended changes or additional technical amendments that may further strengthen the bill.

Metropolitan greatly appreciates your efforts and the opportunity to work with you and your staff to see S.2533 enacted into law by the 114th Congress. Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger".

Jeffrey Kightlinger  
General Manager

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer