



Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture

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February 14, 2018

The Honorable Tom Rooney
U.S. House of Representatives
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for REPAIR Resolution (H. Res. 313)

Dear Congressman Rooney:

On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance, I write in support of your efforts to restore Congress' constitutional authority to make needed investments – via earmarks – in water infrastructure projects. The Alliance is a grassroots organization of family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in 16 Western states. The Alliance is focused on one mission: To ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers. We are also committed to the fundamental proposition that Western irrigated agriculture must be preserved and protected for a host of economic, sociological, environmental, and national security reasons – many of which are often overlooked in the context of other national policy decisions.

Your “Responsible Environmental Preservation and American Infrastructure Restoration (REPAIR) Resolution” (H. Res. 313), would “make a limited change to the House rules to allow Congress to direct necessary funding to vetted water resources development projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.” The REPAIR Act updates the definition of a ‘congressional earmark’ to appropriately classify these critical public safety and environmental projects that provide for the management of the storage, release and flow of water from our nation’s rivers, lakes and dams.

All options should be considered and available to make needed investments in our country’s aging and deteriorating infrastructure and the public investments they represent. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Keppen", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dan Keppen
Executive Director