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Congress of the United States
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April 16, 2007

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

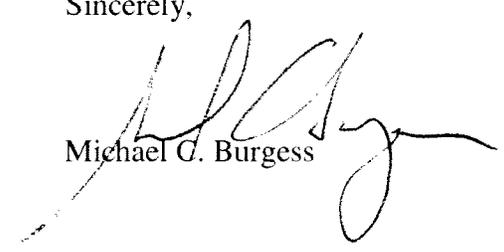
Dear Senator Cornyn,

In 1997, the Texas Legislature passed innovative water planning management legislation, S.B. 1, which established a unique bottom-up regional approach to water planning of both surface and ground water resources. The Texas Water Plan, created in 2001 and updated in November 2006, ensures that the state will have a comprehensive strategy to meet increasing demands on water supply, water infrastructure, and wastewater treatment as population grows.

During the 109th Congress, working with the Texas Water Development Board, I introduced legislation (The Integrated Water Resources Management Act, H.R. 1368) setting forth the State of Texas' priorities for Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Reauthorization. Many of these provisions were included in either the House- or Senate-passed versions of the bill. Unfortunately, neither version included the Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program (TEIP), which is the top priority for the State of Texas in WRDA, although the House-passed version did include TEIP-like authorities for several smaller areas in the State. TEIP allows the Corps to provide technical and planning assistance and construction assistance to local governments after the local governments have identified their preferred solution to water problems and conducted the required studies. As you know, the House and Senate did not reach a compromise on this legislation before adjourning.

The House-reported version of WRDA in the 110th Congress does not contain TEIP. As the Senate begins its consideration of WRDA 2007, I urge your support for TEIP. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,


Michael C. Burgess

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