



March 28, 2022

Chairman Schatz  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
838 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vice Chair Murkowski  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
838 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: S. 3308, the Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act of 2021**

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As an organization that works with businesses that are invested in water security in the Southwest, and that partners closely with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), Business for Water Stewardship writes today in support of S. 3308. Drought and climate threats continue to worsen each year, threatening Arizona's water security and economic future, and disproportionately impacting many Tribal communities. Last August, Secretary Haaland declared the first-ever Tier 1 shortage for Colorado River operations in the Lower Colorado River Basin. The Lower Basin shortage, which began on January 1 of this year, will result in a substantial cut to Arizona's share of the Colorado River.

Policy must evolve and adapt to meet growing water security threats. By authorizing CRIT to assume greater agency over its Colorado River allotment, S. 3308 will allow them to engage in partnerships, if they so choose, that improve flexible management of Colorado River water within Arizona and the Lower Basin to help meet today's challenges.

Meaningful participation by Tribes in the Colorado River Basin has been crucial to recent successes of river operations and programs. In 2020 our organization supported a landmark water conservation project with the CRIT and the state of Arizona, which was one of the largest multi-sector collaborative drought response efforts ever achieved. With millions of private sector dollars invested, funding directly supports the CRIT and their comprehensive system conservation project developed as part of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) negotiations that included Arizona and six other states that rely on water supply from the Colorado River. However CRIT faces further institutional, policy, and legal barriers to fully realizing and making use of their unique water rights. This legislation will empower the CRIT with flexibility to engage in water discussions and negotiations with a broader set of tools to use at their sovereign discretion.

We strongly support the passage of this legislation as a way to further our collective goals of water stability and security in Arizona and the southwest.

Sincerely,

Todd Reeve

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Reeve', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CEO, Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
Co-Founder, Business for Water Stewardship

cc Senator Mark Kelly  
Senator Kirsten Sinema