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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

405 NORTH BEAVER STREET #6
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001

211 NORTH FLORENCE STREET #1
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122

11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653

550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901

1400 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501

June 13, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully request that you include funding of \$100,000 in your Fiscal Year 2015 budget for a United States Army Corps of Engineers Reconnaissance Study for the Lower Santa Cruz River Watershed Project in my district in Pinal County, Arizona.

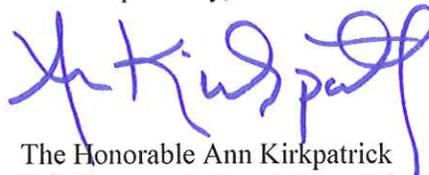
The Lower Santa Cruz River Watershed has a long history of catastrophic flooding during major storms, resulting in severe damage to the region's homes, businesses, crops, and infrastructure. Previous damage occurred when the region was mostly small farming communities. Due to dramatic population growth over the past 10-15 years, a major flood event today would likely cause unprecedented damage, disruption and economic harm.

Pinal County was the second fastest growing county in the U.S. between 2000-2010, with nearly 400,000 people now calling it home and 1 million people projected by 2030. The area is critically important to the state and region. It serves as an international trade hub at the center of the Sun Corridor, with interstate highways, transcontinental rail lines and critical interstate infrastructure all located near the watershed. Severe flooding along the watershed also jeopardizes the region's agriculture industry, which is the state's top producer of cotton, barley and livestock. While previous flooding has caused significant harm, a major flood today could devastate the entire region and harm the state and nation's economy.

Accordingly, this project has widespread local support from county and city governments, tribes, farmers, businesses, homeowners, a unanimous state legislature and the governor. The region's stakeholders stand ready to coordinate, sponsor and work on the project in any manner, including paying for the study. The Corps of Engineers' Los Angeles District Office also has supported Reconnaissance Study funding for at least three consecutive years and is conducting a Flood Plain Management Services economic impact study, due out this summer.

With the current congressional earmark ban, funding for the study cannot be obtained through the appropriations process and would need to be included in your budget. The study of this watershed is congressionally authorized and affects an international river system, three sovereign tribal nations, interstate commerce, national infrastructure and other federal interests. It also impacts the lives of thousands of Arizona residents and my constituents. I look forward to working with you to address this critical issue for my district and state and hope that you can include \$100,000 in your FY2015 budget so that study work can begin on this vital project.

Most respectfully,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One