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May 6, 2016

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

**Re: S. 2533 (Feinstein) California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act**  
**NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The League of California Cities® (League) is writing to express our support for your S. 2533 (Feinstein) California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act. This thoughtful and balanced emergency drought relief measure will help address some of the critical water management challenges facing many California cities.

As you are keenly aware, California faces a fifth year of extreme drought conditions. Despite projections of a historically powerful El Niño and significant precipitation in early winter, the statewide Sierra snowpack, a critical component of the State's water supply, currently stands at 87% of average. In order to stretch potable water supplies, the State Water Resources Control Board has extended the mandatory water conservation regulation until October, thus requiring all Californians to greatly restrict water use.

The League applauds your effort to provide a broad array of federal assistance to parched California. In particular, your S. 2533 would authorize new federally-backed tools to help local municipalities and water districts pursue critically needed water supply projects, including water reuse and recycling projects that will help provide drought resilient water supplies. Specifically, the League supports the following provisions that seek to: (1) authorize \$200 million for the Reclamation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (RIFIA), which is a new low-interest, long-term loan program; (2) authorize an additional \$150 million to expand the WaterSMART program to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to use this successful cost-sharing program to provide grants for water conservation, water reuse and recycling projects, and other water supply and management programs; and (3) authorize \$10 million for the EPA's WaterSense program to better educate consumers on which household products are most water-efficient.

With the rainy season coming to an end and a long, dry summer looming, S. 2533 would provide meaningful federal assistance to help local communities address the short-term effects of the ongoing drought while also investing in long-term solutions that will make our water supplies more drought resilient. Thank you for your ongoing leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please contact me at (916) 658-8264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris McKenzie".

Chris McKenzie  
Executive Director

cc: Members, California Congressional Delegation