



"Serving Western Legislatures"

September 29, 2004

**Council of State Governments-WEST**

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The Honorable Thad Cochran  
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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Homeland Security  
SD-135 DSOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Homeland Security  
SD-135 DSOB  
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The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Homeland Security  
B-307 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martin Sabo  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Homeland Security  
B-307 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran and Senator Byrd & Chairman Rogers and Representative Sabo:

The Western Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments-*WEST*, (CSG-*WEST*), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of legislators from the thirteen Western states, urge you to include the provisions of the National Drought Preparedness Act (S. 1454 and H.R. 2871 ) in the conference report accompanying H.R. 4567, the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. In so doing, we are in specific agreement with the letter of September 21, 2004 you have received from the Western Governors' Association.

We agree that this action is urgently needed before the U.S. Congress adjourns in order to mitigate the economic impact of the deep and persistent drought that has fastened on our region and the nation. The National Integrated Drought Information System and the National Drought Council that would be created by this legislation are essential if we are to develop a national drought policy that will move us toward a proactive rather than a reactive response to these devastating droughts that have threatened the economies of our cities, towns and communities and is one of the prime causes of the fires that are now ravaging the West.

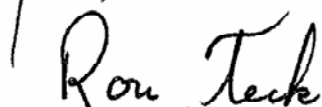
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable Robert Byrd  
The Honorable Harold Rogers  
The Honorable Martin Sabo  
September 29, 2004  
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As an organization representing western legislators, we urge your support of this crucial bill and join the western governors in an appeal for its timely passage.

Sincerely,



Senator Bart M. Davis, Idaho  
Chair, CSG-WEST



Senator Ron Teck, Colorado  
Vice-Chair, CSG-WEST



Senator Kate Brown, Oregon  
Chair-Elect, CSG-WEST



Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Hawaii  
Immediate Past Chair, CSG-WEST

cc: Governor Bill Owens  
Chair, Western Governors' Association

Pam Inmann  
Executive Director, Western Governors' Association

*Adopted by the CSG-WEST Executive Committee at its 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, September 29, 2004.*