

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2002

The Honorable James Walsh
Chairman
Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-143 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We write to respectfully request \$7,980,000 for the International Center for Water Technology within the FY 2003 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies bill, from the Environmental Protection Agency, Science and Technology account. The Center is dedicated to the development and promotion of new technologies that maximize the effectiveness of water use for commercial, municipal, and agricultural applications.


The Center is a \$60 million joint venture between California State University, Fresno and private industry in the San Joaquin Valley. This region, part of which we represent, is the largest agricultural producing area in the nation; thus, water is crucial to the economy. The Center was created to address water needs of the Valley, the state and the nation, and it will concentrate on the implementation of advanced water technologies. The Center's effort will make it possible to maximize efficient use, reuse, transportation, and storage of water and environmental restoration.

Support for the Center from private and government leaders is strong. \$100,000 in seed funds to launch the project has already been provided through a research grant from the State of California. The donated land for the Center site, worth over \$1.6 million, is pending approval from the State. Also, private industry expects to raise \$10 million in funds for the project. Over 120 water technology firms in the San Joaquin Valley support the goals of the Center and local individuals are about to begin an outreach program to engage other water technology manufacturers from throughout the nation to involve them in the development of the Center.

Given the merits of this project, we appreciate your consideration to provide \$7,980,000 in funds for the International Center for Water Technology. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding this funding request.

Sincerely,


George Radanovich
Member of Congress


Bill Thomas
Member of Congress