

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

October 29, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you to for attending today's annual conference of the Columbia Basin Development League. This year's gathering is even more special as it marks the 60<sup>th</sup> time this group has come together, a truly momentous occasion!

The Columbia Basin Development League has served the people of Central Washington since its inception, providing advocacy for the Columbia Basin Project and working to ensure the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program receives the funding and attention it has so desperately needed. The partnerships formed with the regional irrigation districts, federal, state and local stakeholders and the landowners and farmers who rely on this water, provides the critical ingredient to the success of this work. Bringing everyone together to focus on the best solutions available has created a pathway that is producing results.

In the Senate, I've worked to support your efforts through direct appropriations packages in annual funding, authorization of language that provides direct funds to the Odessa Ground Water Replacement program, and took your guidance to help support the efforts of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the PL-556 Small Watershed Program. For FY25, I've been proud to support Grant County's over \$4 million Congressionally Directed Spending request for the replacement of Bridge 248, furthering the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District's work to increase delivery capacity.

Congratulations to the Columbia Basin Development League on 60 years of service. Your advocacy has provided invaluable insight into the challenges being faced, the needs to be met, and the ideas that will provide a pathway forward for the water necessities of this region. Thank you for all that you've done, and will do, to be the voice of the project. I look forward to working with you to continue to support your efforts.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator