

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 The Capitol

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 The Capitol

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid,

We are writing to remind you of our opposition to the harmful water allocation language in last year's Energy and Water Development appropriations bill and subsequently the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2016. As you will recall, the entire Georgia congressional delegation was prepared to vote against any appropriations bill that included language affecting how the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) monitors states' water rights and withdrawals.

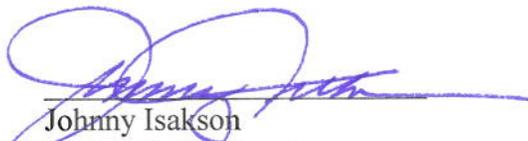
This letter is meant to reaffirm that we will not support any legislation that includes language reversing the progress made with the Corps regarding the use of its water in the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) or Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) basins. Both basins provide critical water resources to a significant portion of our state.

There is ongoing litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court and discussions are occurring among the states and with the Corps to resolve the issues that affect these basins. Congress should avoid interfering in these efforts through the appropriations process. This will allow the ongoing judicial and administrative processes to proceed to their conclusion. Please note that no state's water rights or obligations will be affected or determined until those processes are completed. Additionally and most importantly, no state will be harmed by allowing the litigation and discussions with the Corps to move forward. By abandoning the hostile appropriations language and rightly refusing to intervene in an ongoing legal battle between states, Congress has spoken on this matter.

Although we remain firm in our belief that this issue has been settled, please consider this letter our formal notice that there is no circumstance in which we would vote for cloture on or final passage of an appropriations bill if it includes any language regarding the ACF and the ACT river basins or if it directs the Corps to make any changes to its existing policy affecting water rights for any state.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



David Perdue
United States Senator