



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

Office of the President

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair, House Science Committee
The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member, House Science Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

On behalf of Texas Tech University, I write in support of H.R. 34 the ***Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019***. Tech has a long history of research and innovation in water related activities, ranging from energy production, availability, quality and reuse, to ensure economic growth and resource availability in the sensitive ecosystems of Southern High Plains and rural West Texas.

H.R. 34 aims to advance water research and the impacts on energy production in an area of the country that is impacted by droughts, water shortages, and resource competition. It is critically important that nontraditional water research goes beyond just energy issues, as areas like rural West Texas face issues that require increasing safe and productive use of nontraditional water sources through improved technology. We are pleased the legislation would codify Department of Energy (DOE) research and development efforts in the energy-water nexus initiative and ensure that this topic remains a federal agency priority through programs like the Energy-Water Desalination Hub.

H.R. 34 provides enough flexibility to DOE to design an appropriate program that tackles a wide range of issues including the use of nontraditional waters – this is critical to addressing the issues facing rural areas across the country, like West Texas.

Texas Tech is particularly encouraged by H.R. 34 section 2 (b) that directs creation of a strategic plan, which would assess and develop milestones for research, development and demonstration needs. This assessment will provide a transparent and concise roadmap for the community, informing researchers and stakeholders of agency priorities. Ultimately, this will guide internal academic institutions' investments along with the public/private sector.

Texas Tech University looks forward to serving as a resource for both the Committee and the Department of Energy on energy-water nexus research moving forward.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lawrence Schovanec in black ink.

Lawrence Schovanec
President

Handwritten signature of Joseph Heppert in black ink.

Joseph Heppert
Vice President for Research and Innovation