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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Neal A. Patel |
| April 26, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Fights to Improve Water Levels in Nevada****(Washington, DC)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke on the Senate floor, urging his colleagues to support the Reid-Heller Drought Amendment #3805 to the *Energy and Water Appropriations Bill* (H.R.2028). The amendment supports innovative water conservation projects in the Colorado River Basin and compensates reductions in water use in order to create additional water in the Colorado River system. The amendment was overwhelmingly approved by the Senate.

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| Photo**Background:** Senator Heller has championed this issue in the past and was the lead Republican on the Feinstein-Heller [*Emergency Drought Relief Act*](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve/?File_id=2935a7aa-6b42-4f32-b7ad-dfd43bd1f941) (S.2198), which [unanimously passed the Senate](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=AEF747ED-BBB4-442E-8A84-5C0328F09534) on May 22, 2014 and was enacted into law. This legislation provided federal and state water agencies flexibility to deliver water where it is most needed during the West's historic drought.  Included in this legislation was an important provision aimed at increasing water levels in reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin, including Lake Mead. Increasing water levels at Lake Mead is important for the Las Vegas Valley' water supply and the efficient generation of hydropower at the Hoover Dam. |
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