April 8, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Flemming
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Chairman Flemming,

We respectfully request inclusion of this letter in the hearing record for the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans hearing to be held on April 13, 2016, regarding "Empowering States and Western Water Users Through Regulatory and Administrative Reforms." We understand this hearing will consider reforms to the Bureau of Reclamation's title transfer process and a discussion of a resolution (HJR 004) approved by the Utah Legislature calling upon Congress to pass title transfer legislation for several projects in the State of Utah, including the Strawberry Valley Project (SVP). Each of the undersigned entities were involved with this resolution which was substantially amended to reflect our concerns. We wish for these concerns to be made a part of your hearing record.

Specifically, we worked successfully to amend the Utah Legislature's resolution to delete any reference to title transfer of water rights. We firmly believe that the State issued water rights associated with the Reclamation Projects, which deliver our water supplies in perpetuity, should not be affected in any respect by title transfer legislation. Further, the resolution was amended to condition any future title transfer legislation upon protecting the interests of all effected entities including "local irrigation companies, water districts, and cities".

Title transfer is not appropriate for all Federal water projects, especially many multipurpose projects that provide water for municipal and agricultural use. While title transfer of specific project features might be appropriate, (such as occurred through P.L. 113-19, The South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act which transferred title to the SVP electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District), any future efforts to transfer title to SVP features must involve and protect all project

beneficiaries such as cities, water districts and irrigation companies who have an obligation to provide water and/or power service to their respective customers.

Sincerely,

Steve Leifson, Mayor

CC: Congressman Jason Chaffetz
Congressman Chris Stewart
Congresswoman Mia Love
Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Mike Lee