



June 21, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martha McSally
Chair
Subcommittee on Water and Power
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water and Power
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Huffman and McSally and Ranking Members McClintock and Cortez Masto:

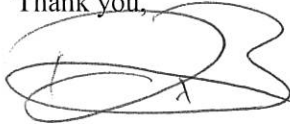
On behalf of The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central), I write in support of the reauthorization of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) and the companion Platte River Recovery Implementation Authorization bills (H.R. 3237 and S. 990).

Central has worked with multiple partners for more than a decade to successfully implement the Program, a partnership that provides benefits for threatened and endangered species in the central and lower Platte River basin while allowing existing water use to continue and new upstream water development to proceed. The Program is also an important component of our existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to operate Kingsley Dam and Lake McConaughy on the North Platte River in Nebraska. The Program is an outstanding example of a proactive, collaborative approach to providing benefits for endangered species and their habitats, while allowing for the beneficial use of water.

The Program functions as the reasonable and prudent alternative for ESA compliance regarding the four target species. The Program provides far-reaching benefits for the three basin states and their water users, including major irrigation water supplies in Nebraska, compliance for operation of four federal reservoirs in Wyoming, and providing drinking water for all major water supply projects for the large population in Colorado's front range. The Program is a national model for collaborative solutions to common problems and provides ESA compliance for the three Platte River basin states. We hope you will support the reauthorization of the Program.

Please also find enclosed with this letter, a copy of a resolution of Central's Board of Directors, passed in 2018, in support of extension of the Program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devin Brundage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Devin Brundage
General Manager

Enclosure

cc: Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva, Committee on Natural Resources
Ranking Member Rob Bishop, Committee on Natural Resources
Chair Lisa Murkowski, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Ranking Member Joe Manchin, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, Nebraska 1st District
Rep. Don Bacon, Nebraska 2nd District
Rep. Adrian Smith, Nebraska 3rd District
Sen. Deb Fischer, Nebraska
Sen. Ben Sasse, Nebraska

Resolution Number – 18-01

Extension of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

Whereas, the whooping crane, interior least tern, piping plover and pallid sturgeon are federally listed threatened and endangered species associated with the Platte River; and

Whereas, the licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) relied upon the development of a program to address endangered species needs in the central Platte River; and

Whereas, water users, environmental groups and state representatives from Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado worked with the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from 1997 through 2006 to develop the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Platte Program); and

Whereas, the governors of Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado and the Secretary of the Interior approved a Platte Program document in late 2006; and

Whereas, the Platte Program legislation and funding was approved by the President of the United States on May 8, 2008; and

Whereas, significant progress has been made to meet the milestones of the Platte Program, with an additional 13-year extension needed to meet the water goals and monitoring requirements.

Therefore, be it resolved, The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District's board of directors supports the extension and funding of the first increment of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for an additional 13 years, and directs staff to work with Platte Program participants to complete legislative approval.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT ON APRIL 2, 2018