



June 18, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair  
Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: S. 990 and H.R. 3237 Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Extension Act

Dear Chairs Murkowski and Grijalva and Ranking Members Manchin and Bishop:

I write today in strong support for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) extension bill (S. 990 and H.R. 3237). The Program is a cooperative, basin-wide solution created to resolve conflicts between water use and endangered species protection for most of the Platte River basin in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. Resolution of these conflicts is in the interest of all three states and is critically important to all who live and work along Colorado's rapidly growing Front Range and northeastern Colorado as evidenced by the number of successful consultations completed in Colorado during the initial 12 years of Program operation. The Program has been a highly successful partnership among the U.S. Department of Interior and the states of Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming and is a model recognized throughout the arid West for providing predictable and streamlined Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance in the three-state basin.

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Northern Water has been a strong and steady supporter of the Program from its inception to this day and remains committed to continued development and implementation of this highly successful solution to conflicting water use and ESA issues. Northern Water provides water supplies to about 985,000 people within its district boundaries, which encompass 1.6 million acres in portions of eight Colorado counties: Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Sedgwick, Washington, and Weld. Northern Water provides cities, towns, rural-domestic water districts and industries with year-round water deliveries. Northern Water also delivers supplemental water to more than 120 ditch, reservoir and irrigation companies serving thousands of farms comprising more than 640,000 acres. To continue to meet the growing water demands along Colorado's Front Range, Northern Water is involved in new water planning activities and projects, including the Northern Integrated Supply Project ("NISP") that is currently working through the federal permitting process on behalf of 15 water providers located within Northern Water's boundaries. Colorado's economy is robust, and water is a fundamental basis of Colorado's economy.

Northern Water strongly believes the Program is vitally important in helping to protect and ensure the future for water users as well as the threatened and endangered species. S. 990 and H.R. 3237 provide for an extension of the first increment of the Program for 13 years, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to be a part of the implementation of this extension, and provides funding for the federal share of the Program. We thank you for sponsoring this legislation and request that you support the reauthorization of this Program through S. 990 and H.R. 3237.

Sincerely,



Bradley D. Wind, P.E.  
General Manager

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