



## Nebraska Public Power District

"Always there when you need us"

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July 1, 2019

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

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

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

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
Ranking Member  
*Subcommittee on Water & Power*  
*Committee on Energy & 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 Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), 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).

NPPD has worked with multiple partners for more than a decade to successfully implement the Program, a partnership that provides benefits for four 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 a key condition of our existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to operate hydroelectric power plants fed by Platte River water 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.

This good work needs to continue, both for the benefit of the species and our economy. That is why NPPD endorses the reauthorization of the Program. This legislation will extend the current work for another 13 years, continuing the restoration and protection of habitat

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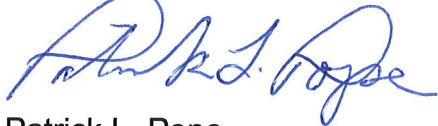
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for the whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon. During the first 13 years of the Program, 196 water use projects were approved with streamlined Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance consultations, reducing the regulatory burden on our water users.

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 in Colorado's booming 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 this important Program.

Thank you,



Patrick L. Pope  
President & CEO

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 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Rep. Don Bacon	Nebraska 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Rep. Adrian Smith	Nebraska 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Sen. Deb Fischer	Nebraska
Sen. Ben Sasse	Nebraska