



# TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

June 18, 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:

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District (Twin Platte NRD) supports reauthorization of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) and the companion Platte River Recovery Implementation Authorization bills (H.R. 3237 and S. 990).

The Twin Platte NRD 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 beneficial uses of water to continue. 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 the economy of the basin. That is why the Twin Platte NRD endorses the reauthorization of the Program. This legislation will extend the current work for another 13 years, continuing the restoration and protection of habitat 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. The Twin Platte NRD requests your support for the reauthorization of this important Program.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Miller', is written over the typed name.

Kent O. Miller  
General Manager

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 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