



**AMERICAN
RIVERS**

The Nature
Conservancy 

The Honorable Jeff Hurd
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 23, 2025

Dear Representative Hurd,

On behalf of our organizations' millions of members and supporters, we write to express our strong support for the *Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act of 2025*, HR 3857.

Our organizations have a long history of working with Colorado River communities across the political spectrum to support Colorado River restoration, habitat for birds, fish, and other wildlife and, and diverse stakeholder engagement to advance nonpartisan efforts across the Basin. The Colorado River is one of the American West's national treasures. It is a foundation for the West's economy, supporting five million acres of irrigated farmland that deliver produce nationwide, and providing drinking water for over 40 million people, including under-served Tribal and rural communities. The Colorado River is also an essential part of the cultural fabric for 30 federally recognized Tribal Nations that call the Basin home. The river, though, is in crisis. Extended drought and resulting diminished stream flows pose increasingly serious challenges for cities, farms, wildlife, and recreation.

Snowpack in the Colorado River Basin and throughout the western United States plays a critical role in determining water availability for ecosystems, agriculture, municipalities, and hydropower production. As climate variability increases, accurate and timely snowpack measurements and forecasting tools are more vital than ever for resource planning, habitat management, and drought resilience. The proposed legislation would make strategic updates to the Bureau of Reclamation's Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program, ensuring continued investment in cutting-edge, integrated technologies such as airborne laser altimetry, imaging spectroscopy, and physics-based snowpack modeling.

We especially commend the bill's focus on improving the spatial and temporal resolution of snow data, supporting real-time integration with water supply forecasts, and enhancing capacity

among local, state, and tribal partners. These enhancements will enable water and land managers to make better-informed decisions that benefit both people and the environment.

Our organizations have long supported science-based water management approaches, and this legislation exemplifies the type of forward-looking investment needed to adapt to changing hydrologic conditions. We urge Congress to swiftly advance and enact this important bill.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

American Rivers
National Audubon Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Nature Conservancy