

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

GRAND JUNCTION AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Grand Junction, CO, November 22, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES TIPTON AND POLIS: As the voice of business on Colorado's western slope, representing over 900 businesses, we want to thank you for introducing H.R. 3189 as a way to ensure that water rights are continually protected in Colorado. It is absurd that the federal government requires ski resorts to relinquish their rights as a condition of granting permits, and this practice must be stopped.

The Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce offers legislative guidelines on water that include the following points: Water rights in Colorado and the West have been considered a vital asset and personal property for many years. Water is an essential component of the economic, social and environmental quality of life that we enjoy. The preservation and protection of private ownership and the right to use water, its conservation, and its wise use are necessary to preserve the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of western Colorado and the entire state. Furthermore, industries in Colorado such as agriculture, small businesses, tourism, and natural resource development require steady reliable and high quality water supplies.

The passage of H.R. 3189 would ensure that tourism operations as well as other businesses' private property rights are protected when it comes to water. It will also help the regulatory uncertainty and remove the concern that if a ski area wants to grow or expand it will not lose its property. This helps create a sure business climate in Colorado. Thank you for sponsoring this bill. We urge the passage of H.R. 3189.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BURKE,
Chairman of the Board.

Garfield County, CO January 13, 2014.

Re Garfield County Board of County Commissioners' Letter of support for pending legislation H.R. 3189: Water Rights Protection Act

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: The purpose of this letter is to provide you with unanimous support from Garfield County Board of County Commissioners (the Board) for H.R. 3189, "The Water Rights Protection Act." Many of the Counties in Colorado are largely comprised of federal lands. For example, 2/3rd of Garfield County (or approximately 2,000 sq. miles) is held and managed

by either the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Many private businesses and industries in Garfield County including but not limited to ranching, agriculture, guiding and outfitting, and the ski industry (Ski Sunlight) to name a few, rely on the use of these federal lands to operate and thrive. Land management decisions made on these lands can have a significant socioeconomic impact on the County and, more importantly, to the private businesses and activities that have operated here even prior to statehood.

It is these businesses that make up key portions of the fabric of our local communities and are important contributors to our local economies. Moreover, they have lawfully obtained and privately paid for water rights necessary to the success of their operations. However, because of their use of federal lands for their operations, they also are also dependent on permit approvals from federal agencies to continue operate in Garfield County. Specific to pending H.R. 3189, the Board supports this legislation as it protects existing water rights obtained and held by these private businesses from an arbitrary and uncompensated taking by the federal government through the use of conditions on permits or any other regulatory mechanism. Moreover, it is unconscionable that the federal government shall attempt to hold these businesses hostage in order to 'take' their water rights without legal authority. To do so shall, no doubt, render private businesses as victims and casualties of government overreach and possible failure in the ability to control their future.

We are encouraged to see such wide bipartisan support for this legislation which clearly underscores its value and hopeful passage into law. It is rather unfortunate that its takes legislation such as this to reaffirm what are long standing existing rights, but the Board is pleased to see your efforts be put to such a good cause on behalf of citizens and businesses in Garfield County.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the position of the Board outlined above.

Very truly yours,

JOHN MARTIN,
Chairman, Garfield
County Board of
County Commissioners.

MIKE SAMSON,
Commissioner, Garfield
County Board of
County Commissioners.

TOM JANKOVSKY,
Garfield County Board
of County Commissioners.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPS. TIPTON AND POLIS: On behalf of more than 6 million Farm Bureau member families across the United States, I commend you for your introduction of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. The Amer-

ican Farm Bureau Federation endorses the Tipton-Polis bill, and will work closely with you to broaden bipartisan support for this measure and to gain its swift consideration and approval by the House of Representatives.

H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. This legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1866; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and again commend you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,

BOB STALLMAN,
President.

FAMILY FARM ALLIANCE,
Klamath Falls, Oregon, October 8, 2013.

Re Support for "Water Rights Protection Act" (H.R. 3189)

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance, this letter expresses our formal support for your "Water Rights Protection Act" (H.R. 3189). This important legislation would prohibit the conditioning of any federal permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

The Alliance is a grassroots organization of family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts and allied industries in 16 Western states. The Alliance is focused on one mission: To ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers. The Alliance has long advocated that solutions to conflicts over the allocation and use of water resources must begin with recognition of the traditional deference to state water allocation systems. Federal agencies must recognize and respect state-based water rights and develop their management decisions according to state law and abide by state decrees defining both federal and non-federal rights. Federal agencies need to work within the framework of existing prior appropriation systems instead of attempting to fashion solutions which circumvent current water rights allocation and administration schemes.

Unfortunately, in recent years, some agencies within the federal government have repeatedly demonstrated they will not abide by this philosophy. These efforts constitute

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

a federal overreach and a violation of private property rights.

For example, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has attempted to implement a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a permit condition on National Forest System lands. There is no compensation for the transfer of these privately held rights despite the fact that many stakeholders have invested their own capital in developing the rights. Additionally, federal land management agencies are leveraging Western water users in an effort to acquire additional water supplies for the federal government by requiring water users to apply for their rights under state law in the name of the United States rather than for themselves. USFS continues to take private water rights hostage through their permit conditions, despite objections from elected officials, business owners, private property advocates and a U.S. District Court ruling.

Our farmers and ranchers rely on their vested water rights to secure operating loans, as well as irrigate crops and water livestock. Federal agencies should not be able to leverage those water rights against farming and ranching families who have long depended upon federal permits and leases to support actions like grazing.

The Water Rights Protection Act would protect communities, businesses, recreation opportunities, farmers and ranchers as well as other individuals that rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood from federal takings. It would do so by prohibiting federal agencies from extorting water rights through the use of permits, leases, and other land management arrangements, for which it would otherwise have to pay just compensation under the 5th Amendment of the Constitution. The Water Rights Protection Act protects privately held water rights, prohibits federal takings, and upholds state water law by:

Prohibiting agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land;

Prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves;

Upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law;

Has no cost to the American taxpayer.

Some Family Farm Alliance members in Arizona and Colorado have expressed some concerns with language contained in the original bill. We understand that they are working with you and Rep. Gosar to modify the language so that changes can be easily made by the Water and Power Subcommittee. We support H.R. 3189 with those changes.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for your bill, which is very important to the family farmers and ranchers of our membership. If you have any questions about this letter, I encourage you or your staff to contact me at (541)-892-6244.

Sincerely,

DAN KEPPEN,
Executive Director.

DURANGO MOUNTAIN RESORT,

Durango, CO, October 15, 2013.

Re Letter of Support for Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 3189)

Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,

House of Representatives,

Durango, CO.

Congressman JARED POLIS,

House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON AND CONGRESSMAN POLIS: Please consider this letter as Durango Mountain Resort's formal expression of support for the Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 3189). We applaud you for sponsoring this legislation to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. We also hope you will consider our suggested amendment language to prohibit the Secretaries from denying access to or us of a water right.

Durango Mountain Resort (DMR) provides its local community with significant jobs and recreational opportunities that support the economy of Southwestern Colorado. And DMR has consistently shown excellent stewardship of the environment, taking careful measures to eliminate negative impact on its land and resources. In fact, the resort received an "A" grade on its SACC Environmental Report Card this year. The resort is proud of its grading and continuously strives to exceed environmental standards.

Durango Mountain Resort, like many resorts in the southwest region, relies heavily on access to its water supplies for healthy operation of the resort. This is especially true during periods of drought which have plagued southwestern Colorado for several years now. DMR has proven resourceful in its ability to come up with alternative methodologies to produce snow during these dry winter years. Unfortunately, due to recent restrictions imposed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the resort is no longer able to count on water from the Cascade Aqueduct for its snowmaking water. The USFS essentially shut down one of DMR's major water sources by imposing an in-stream flow requirement that reduced DMR's water supply by 95% of its historical amount. When DMR then submitted an application to access and develop its prior water rights in Hermosa Park, the USFS refused to process DMR's application, denying DMR's rights that were reserved through a prior USFS land exchange agreement with the USFS. DMR believes these actions by the USFS are a blatant attempt by the federal government to extort water rights through the violation of existing water appropriation agreements and systems.

DMR has offered countless remedies to the USFS to circumvent the dire consequences these restrictions have imposed. Each time the USFS has shown it is not willing to consider alternative solutions even though it was made clear that their actions could easily put the resort out of business and unilaterally eliminate the jobs and recreational offerings it provides to the community.

The Water Rights Protection Act would protect communities, businesses, recreational attractions, farmers and ranchers, as well as other individuals that rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood, from federal takings. It would do so by prohibiting federal agencies from extorting water rights through the use of permits, leases, and other land management arrangements, for which it would otherwise have to pay just compensation under the 5th Amendment of the Constitution. The Water Rights Protection Act protects privately held water

rights, prohibits federal takings, and upholds state water law by:

Prohibiting agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land;

Prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves;

Prohibiting the Secretaries from denying access to or use of a water right;

Upholding longstanding federal deference to state water law, and it has no cost to the American taxpayer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for the Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 3189). This legislation is very important to Durango Mountain Resort, its employees, business partners, guests, and surrounding communities. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at 970-426-7242.

Sincerely,

GARY S. DERCK,
President and CEO.

COLORADO SKI COUNTRY USA,
October 4, 2013.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,

Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA), the industry association and global voice of skiing and snowboarding in Colorado, in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. CSCUSA represents twenty ski areas in Colorado that operate on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These public land resorts hosted over 6.3 million skier visits in Colorado in the 2012/13 ski season alone, and skiing and snowboarding constitute a \$3.0 billion annual economic impact to our state.

CSCUSA supports H.R. 3189 because it would prohibit the U.S. Forest Service from requiring our resorts to transfer valuable water rights to the Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit, or to apply for water rights in the name of the United States, without compensation.

While the Forest Service insists that such actions would be intended only to maintain the long-run viability of the resorts as ski and snowboard areas, requiring resorts to transfer the water rights they need to operate so as to prevent their sale to a third party is a solution in search of a problem. Moreover, required transfers of water rights that are critical to ski area operations would politicize their use, with each change in administration changing priorities for water use.

Furthermore, requiring transfer of valuable water rights to the NFS as a condition of receiving a permit raises serious Fifth Amendment concerns. Our member resorts' water rights were acquired and developed at great expense pursuant to Colorado law, and in some cases predate the Forest Service itself. If the NFS wants to secure its own water rights, it should buy them on Colorado's well-regulated water market like everyone else.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to CSCUSA and our member ski resorts operating across Colorado on NFS lands.

Best Regards,

MELANIE MILLS,
President and CEO.

HONORING THE ST. JOHN BOSCO
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the St. John Bosco High School varsity football team on their numerous accomplishments during their 2013–2014 football season. The St. John Bosco Braves are an outstanding football team from Bellflower, CA. The Braves were named the 2013 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Pac5 Division Champions, CIF Southern Regional Champions, CIF State Champions, and National Champions by Max Preps.

The historic season for the St. John Bosco Braves began with the school's second ever CIF Finals appearance against their longtime rival, Mater Dei High School. After an uncharacteristically slow first half, the Braves came out firing in the second half and ended up beating the Mater Dei Monarchs 34–7, thus crowning the Braves CIF Pac–5 champions, the first football title in the school's seventy-three (73) year history. A week later, St. John Bosco routed the Corona Centennial Huskies 70–49, thus giving the Braves yet another award to add to the season, CIF Southern Regional Champions. The next and last game on the schedule had the entire Bosco community on edge as it was not only the State Championship game, but that it was against the De La Salle High School Spartans who headed into the State Championship game with a 40 game winning streak. After four grueling quarters of football, the Braves came out on top 20–14, ending the Spartans' winning streak and crowning the Braves 2013 CIF State Champions; the first in school history.

The St. John Bosco Braves finished their season 16–0, which propelled them to the top of the national football rankings along with Allen High School from Allen, Texas and Washington High School out of Miami, Florida. On January 27th, the ninth annual MaxPreps Football Tour of Champions arrived in Bellflower, CA to award the Braves with the National Championship trophy. This award came with the nation's number one ranking out of 15,000 schools and is a feat never accomplished by any sport in the school's history.

Due to such a successful season, Head Coach Jason Negro was awarded various accolades, including the MaxPreps High School National Coach of the Year award, the Press-Telegram Dream Team Coach of the Year, the American Football Monthly Magazine National Coach of the Year, and CIF Southern Section Pac–5 Coach of the Year. In addition, earlier in the year Coach Negro was selected to coach the West Team at the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Game and was awarded the Xenith/Bill Yoast National Coach of the Year presented by the Army All-American Bowl.

As a result of the hard work and dedication displayed by the Braves in the 2013–2014 football season, made evident by their list of accomplishments, it was no surprise that several varsity football players received full rides to study and compete at the college level. On February 5th, 2014, the following players committed and signed their National Letters of Intent to their respective universities: Brett Bald-

win (Air Force Academy), Malik Dorton (University of Southern California), Shay Fields (University of Colorado), Naiijel Hale (University of Washington), Chandler Hawkins (Naval Academy), Chandler Leniu (University of California, Berkeley), Damien Mama (University of Southern California), Jacob Tuioti-Mariner (University of California, Los Angeles), and Jaleel Wadood (University of California, Los Angeles).

I once again would like to recognize and congratulate the St. John Bosco Braves and Coach Negro on their historic season and numerous accomplishments. I wish all of the players continued success as they pursue their goals in athletics, academics, and their careers.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

MONTEZUMA VALLEY IRRIGATION
COMPANY,
Cortez, CO 81321

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: At their regularly scheduled meeting on October 8, 2013, the Board of Directors of Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company voted unanimously to support the proposed House Resolution 3189 introduced by Representative Scott Tipton and others.

We believe that this Bill is critical to protect water rights held by citizens and entities such as ours from usurpation by Federal agencies. In doing so, it preserves the water rights long held by, and essential to the survival of, agribusinesses, recreational businesses, municipalities, and individuals throughout our state and all states that receive water from rivers and streams originating in the state of Colorado.

Regards,

GERALD KOPPENHAFFER,
MVIC Board President.

MONTEZUMA COUNTY,
October 15, 2013.

Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives,
Third District, Durango, CO.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners would like to strongly express our formal support for the proposed House H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act.

The USFS and BLM are notorious for attempting to subjugate private property rights through coercion and deception. Recently the USFS has attempted to coerce water users to apply for water rights in the name of the United States rather than the name of the purchaser as a condition to be permitted to operate on federal lands.

This action is unethical, constitutes a federal taking of private property without just compensation, and is a violation of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Moreover this is a blatant attempt to subvert longstanding state water laws in the western United States which under the United States Constitution belongs under state authority.

These actions have already had a negative effect on ski areas which are critical to western states economies. Since many of the municipalities and agricultural operations rely upon similar storage facilities they are

equally at risk since most of the absolute and conditional water rights in the arid west originate on high altitude federal lands where annual precipitation accumulates as snow fall.

The Water Rights Protection Act, House H.R. 3189, will protect our western communities, family farms, small business, energy development and other economic activities that rely upon privately held water rights for our livelihood and way of life.

This Bill will assist in establishing clear boundaries for federal jurisdiction and help prevent federal overreaches.

The Montezuma County Board of County Commissioners

STEVE D. CHAPPELL,
KEENAN G. ERTEL,
LARRY DON SUCKLA.

MESA COUNTY,

Grand Junction, CO, December 19, 2013.

Re House Resolution 3189—Water Rights Protection Act of 2013

Hon. MARK UDALL,
U.S. Senate,
Grand Junction, CO.

DEAR SENATOR UDALL: As you know, Representative Tipton has authored House Resolution 3189, The Water Rights Protection Act of 2013. H.R. 3189 protects privately held water rights, prohibits federal taking of water rights and upholds state water law.

It is within your power to circumvent these future problems through legislative intervention. The bill would prohibit agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land. In addition the bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves. This bill upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law and has no cost to the American taxpayer.

On behalf of the 150,000 constituents of Mesa County, the Board of Commissioners asks for you to support this legislation, not simply through non-binding administrative action but rather by making this action law. The Commissioners fear that without supporting this bill to law, any temporary administrative "patch" will lead to future crisis of water rights in Mesa County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners.
STEVE ACQUAFRESCA,
Chair,
ROSE PUGLIESE,
Commissioner,
JOHN JUSTMAN,
Commissioner.

MESA COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

Grand Junction, CO, December 19, 2013.

Re House Resolution 3189—Water Rights Protection Act of 2013

Hon. MICHAEL BENNET,
U.S. Senate,
Grand Junction, CO.

DEAR SENATOR BENNET: As you know, Representative Tipton has authored House Resolution 3189, The Water Rights Protection Act of 2013. HR 3189 protects privately held water rights, prohibits federal taking of water rights and upholds state water law.

It is within your power to circumvent these future problems through legislative intervention. The bill would prohibit agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in

order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land. In addition the bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves. This bill upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law and has no cost to the American taxpayer.

On behalf of the 150,000 constituents of Mesa County, the Board of Commissioners asks for you to support this legislation, not simply through non-binding administrative action but rather by making this action law. The Commissioners fear that without supporting this bill to law, any temporary administrative "patch" will lead to future crisis of water rights in Mesa County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

STEVE ACQUAFRESCA,
Chair,
ROSE PUGLIESE,
Commissioner,
JOHN JUSTMAN,
Commissioner.

MESA COUNTY, COUNTY
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2,

Grand Junction, CO, October 10, 2013.

Re H.R. 3189

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: I sincerely appreciate your leadership in Colorado and Western water matters. H.R. 3189 exemplifies that leadership. I lend my full support to H.R. 3189 with the consensus amendments developed by your staff, the national ski areas and the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

With the clarifying amendments, H.R. 3189 provides responsible side boards to agency actions when permitting allowable activities and uses on federal lands. It prohibits the transfer of ownership of privately held water rights in exchange for required permits. I am also pleased that your staff will prepare a sponsor's statement to confirm that the bill will not change existing law that allows reasonable permit conditions that can protect both the natural environment and present and future downstream water users dependent on the public lands for critical water supplies.

I want to express my genuine appreciation for you and your staff's willingness to develop legislation that accomplishes our mutual goals of protecting private property interests in western water while maintaining the authority to condition permits to ensure responsible exercise of those rights.

Sincerely,

STEVEN ACQUAFRESCA,
Chairman, Board of Commissioners.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 3189, the "Water Rights Protection Act." This bipartisan bill would protect water supplies and property rights from federal agency overreach by ensuring that the federal government cannot condition its approval of permits, leases, and other use agreements on the restriction or loss of applicable state water rights.

While eastern states typically apply riparian law to water rights questions, western states generally use the prior appropriation doctrine, which is "first in time, first in right." State laws protecting waters for multiple uses in western states have been in existence for over a century. Water rights are obtained by diverting water for "beneficial use," which can include domestic use, irrigation, manufacturing, mining, hydropower, municipal use, agriculture, and others depending on state law.

Recent federal actions have threatened this longstanding federal-state water rights relationship. Agencies increasingly require unnecessary and restrictive use conditions that must be met before land owners can receive or renew a permit. H.R. 3189 would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

H.R. 3189 would protect water uses while ensuring that state water laws are upheld by prohibiting federal agencies from imposing permit conditions that requires privately held water rights to be transferred to the federal government in exchange for a new or renewed permit to operate on federal land.

This bill would ensure that the longstanding federal-state water relationship is maintained and not compromised by the placement of unreasonable permit conditions. The Chamber strongly supports H.R. 3189.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN,
Executive vice president,
Government Affairs.

GUNNISON COUNTY, CO,
October 22, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Washington, DC.

HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES: The Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado commend you for sponsoring "The Water Rights Protection Act." The Board will work closely with you to broaden bipartisan support for this measure and to gain its consideration and approval.

The Water Rights Protection Act would protect privately held water rights, prohibits federal takings, and upholds state water law by:

Prohibiting agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land;

Prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from requiring water users to acquire water rights for the United States rather than for the water user themselves;

Upholds longstanding federal deference to state water law;

Has no cost to the American taxpayer.

Note: We are informed that you are diligently working to address the concern that the bill, as introduced, would not provide for the opportunity to condition relevant federal permits regarding transbasin diversion of water to require appropriate "by-pass" flows. We support this clarification and this issue can be addressed—perhaps through a combination of additional language, a well crafted "legislative history", and a "savings clause."

In the main, H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. This legislation sim-

ply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1872; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and again commend you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,

The Board of County Commissioners of the
County of Gunnison, Colorado.

PAULA SWENSON,
Chairperson.

PHIL CHAMBERLAND,
Vice-Chairperson.

JONATHAN HOUCK,
Commissioner.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

RIO GRANDE COUNTY,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Del Norte, Colorado, October 16, 2013.

Re Support of the Water Rights Protection
Act H.R. 3189

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
*Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

Hon. JARED POLIS,
*Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR REPS. TIPTON AND POLIS: The Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County supports your efforts through H.R. 3189 to protect the privately owned water rights within the State of Colorado.

The control of water within the State of Colorado and any other state in this nation has been controlled and regulated by the State. The Constitution of the United States does not allow the federal government to regulate private water rights.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the Forest Services or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We thank you for your attention to this crucial issue, and for supporting our rural communities and our public lands.

Sincerely,

KARLA L. SHRIVER,
Chair, Board of County Commissioners.

RIO BLANCO COUNTY,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Meeker, Colorado, January 10, 2014.
Re Rio Blanco County Support for the Water Rights Protection Act
Rep. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON, The Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County is very concerned with recent actions on the part of federal agencies that attempt to circumvent state law in order to acquire private water rights. Even more disconcerting is the coercive manner in which these attempts have been made.

As of now, the components of local economies targeted by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are the ski area industry and ranching. There are also many other essential contributors to our economies that rely on water to exist, and we must be certain that none fall prey. Federal efforts to rearrange the legal structure by which water rights are held threaten Colorado jobs and the economic health of rural communities.

Rio Blanco County applauds you and your colleagues in this effort, and fully supports the Water Rights Protection Act.

Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County

SHAWN BOLTON,
Chairman.

NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF
ASSOCIATION,
October 3, 2013.

Re Support of the Water Rights Protection Act H.R. 3189

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
Ranking Member, 2134 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS AND RANKING MEMBER DEFAZIO: The Public Lands Council (PLC) and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) strongly support the Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA), (H.R. 3189). PLC is the only national organization dedicated solely to representing the roughly 22,000 ranchers who operate on federal lands, some of which are U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. NCBA is the beef industry's largest and oldest national marketing and trade association, representing American cattlemen and women who provide much of the nation's supply of food and own or manage a large portion of America's private property. Many of our members also hold private water rights on federal lands, which serve as an integral part of their operations; thus, these water rights keep our members in business and rural communities thriving. However, landowners face an unprecedented threat to the future of their water rights on lands managed by the USFS.

The USFS has been notorious for violating private property rights, as they have recently attempted to require the transfer of privately owned water rights to the federal government. The USFS has not provided adequate compensation as required by Article V of the Constitution; instead, they have attempted to acquire these rights in exchange for special use permits, likely in violation of a recent Supreme Court ruling in *Koontz*. Furthermore, the USFS has repeatedly ignored established state water laws in order to perform these takes, which amounts to a vast overreach by the federal government.

H.R. 3189, introduced by Congressmen: Scott Tipton (R-Colo.), Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), and Jared Polis (D-Colo.) comes as

a means to combat the recent directive that allows the USFS to execute the seizure of these water rights without just compensation. The language in the directive is applicable to ski areas specifically; however, this issue is a threat to all water users, including ranchers, as they depend on these rights to keep their business viable.

This legislation would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from, requiring the transfer of water rights without adequate compensation. Additionally, the bill supports long-established state water laws, clarifying that the federal government does not have jurisdiction.

We strongly encourage the Natural Resource Committee to support this important legislation. We thank you for your attention to this crucial issue, and for supporting our members as they continue to be an essential part of rural communities and stewards of our public lands.

Sincerely,
SCOTT GEORGE,
NCBA President.
BRICE LIEB,
PLC President.

PNSAA,
La Conner, WA, September 26, 2013.
Re H.R. 3189/Water Rights Protection Act

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of ski areas in the Pacific Northwest operating on National Forest System lands. PNSAA represents 34 ski resorts in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and California. Of the 34 members 30 operate on public land.

PNSAA supports H.R. 3189/Water Rights Protection Act that would prohibit the Forest Service from issuing permit clauses that require ski areas to transfer ownership of valuable water rights to the United States without compensation. Water is crucial to ski area operations. Ski areas collectively hold water rights worth over a hundred million dollars. We developed these rights through our own effort and expense, and we have no intention of surrendering ownership of these water rights to the U.S. without compensation.

We would like to thank you for your leadership on protecting ski area water rights. It means a great deal to PNSAA and all ski areas across the country operating on NFS lands.

Best Regards,
JOHN A. GIFFORD,
President.
NSAA,
October 4, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189
Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. NSAA represents 121 ski areas in the U.S. that operate on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These public land resorts accommodate the majority of skier visits in the U.S. and are located in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. The ski industry generates \$12.2 billion in economic activity annually and is a major employer in rural economies. NSAA would like to thank the

lead sponsors of this bill, Representatives Tipton, Polis, Amodei and McClintock, for their leadership on this critical issue for ski areas.

NSAA supports H.R. 3189 because it would prohibit the Forest Service from issuing permit clauses that require ski areas to transfer ownership of valuable water rights to the United States, or apply for water rights in the name of the United States, without compensation. Water is crucial to ski area operations. Ski areas collectively hold water rights worth over a hundred million dollars. We developed these rights through our own effort and expense, and we have no intention of surrendering ownership of these water rights to the U.S. without compensation.

This bill would prevent the federal government from making an end run around state law by merely taking water rights that it does not own through its permitting authority. It would not only protect ski area water rights—it would protect any water rights owners that operate on federal land.

In closing, we would like to thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to NSAA and all ski areas across the country operating on NFS lands.

Best Regards,
MICHAEL BERRY,
President.

NSAA,
November 14, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189
Chairman MCCLINTOCK,
Water and Power Subcommittee,
Congressman SCOTT TIPTON.

GENTLEMEN: I am writing from the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) and our ski area members to express the importance of H.R. 3189 to the ski industry. As you know, NSAA represents 90 percent of the ski industry nationally, including 121 member ski areas that operate on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These 121 public land resorts accommodate the majority of skier visits in the U.S. and span 13 states. All 121 of NSAA's public land ski area members strongly support H.R. 3189.

The agency's announcement yesterday of a change in its water policy was well received by the ski industry. We were pleased to see this significant change in Forest Service policy and applaud the agency's leadership on this important issue for ski areas. Ski areas have invested a great deal in water rights, and we rely on these water rights to bring our guests an alpine recreation experience unmatched anywhere in the world. This decision will benefit the millions of people who visit ski areas on the National Forests, and it will also benefit the rural communities in which resorts are located.

Despite this announced change in policy, we still need Congress to pass the Water Rights Protection Act. The policy change announced by the agency this week is the fourth change in Forest Service water policy for ski areas in ten years. These changes are disruptive, create uncertainty and adversely impact our operations, planning and future growth. The ski industry can't afford to be subjected to a different water policy with each Administration. Only federal legislation can give us the long term protection we need of an outright statutory prohibition on the taking of our water rights by the federal government.

H.R. 3189 is complementary to the agency's efforts to develop a new policy. The new policy assumes that ski area water will no longer be taken by the U.S. government, but instead can be sold to a successive owner at fair market value. H.R. 3189 would not interfere with the implementation of this new

policy, as it prohibits forced transfers of water rights “directly to the United States.” The Water Rights Protection Act is essential because it would codify the assumption that water will no longer be taken by the federal government without compensation, and thus provides a permanent foundation for Forest Service water policy going forward.

We urge the Committee to move forward with the mark up and passage of H.R. 3189. We look forward to continued dialogue with all stakeholders as the agency develops a new policy to address water resources for the future.

Best Regards,

MICHAEL BERRY,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,
October 21, 2013.

Re The Water Rights Protection Act—H.R. 3189

Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO,

Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Chairman McCLINTOCK and Ranking Member NAPOLITANO,
Subcommittee on Water and Power, U.S. House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, RANKING MEMBER DEFAZIO, CHAIRMAN McCLINTOCK AND RANKING MEMBER NAPOLITANO: The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) supports the bipartisan H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. NACD represents America’s 3,000 locally led conservation districts working with millions of co-operating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands in the United States. Established under state law, conservation districts share a single mission: to work cooperatively with federal, state and other local resource management agencies and private sector interests to provide technical, financial, and other assistance to help landowners and operators apply conservation to the landscape.

NACD understands that water is a vital natural resource that needs to be protected. This bill would prevent federal agencies from requiring public- lands users to turn over water rights as a condition of issuing or renewing permits. Not only is compelling individuals to relinquish water rights for permits unfair to those who have paid to use their water permits, the required waiver of water rights to the federal government overlooks state laws concerning water rights transfer and ownership as well as Constitutional takings issues.

Stakeholders ranging from individual ranchers and farmers to municipalities rely on private water rights to provide drinking water, provide agricultural water, run their operations, and secure loans. The loss of these water rights would take away their ability to address local water concerns and plan ahead to meet their specific long-term water needs. H.R. 3189 would secure water rights for those that have paid for them and provide stakeholders the stability they need to appropriately plan for and manage natural resources at the local level.

Thank you for your consideration of these important water resource issues as they pertain to H.R. 3189.

Sincerely,

EARL J. GARBER.

MONTROSE COUNTY COLORADO,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Montrose, CO, October 10, 2013.
Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
*N. 5th St., Suite 702,
Grand Junction, CO.*

DEAR MR. TIPTON: On behalf of the people of Montrose County, Colorado, we are hereby expressing our earnest support for H.R. 3189 aka the “Water Rights Protection Act”. This is a timely and necessary piece of legislation.

Water is an essential property right for business operators ranging from agriculture to ski areas. No operator or property owner should be coerced into surrendering a privately held water right. The opportunity for beneficial use of public lands is a separate right. Federal agencies are charged only with administering permitting and other processes related to public lands. These agencies should have no authority to use these processes as a mechanism to strip rights from lawful water users.

It is noteworthy that even in the midst of the ongoing government shutdown, this bill is coming forward with bipartisan support. This underscores the importance and common sense of H.R. 3189. This bill represents no cost to the public and provides needed protection of lawfully held water rights.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 3189 and we are happy to provide further support for this effort as necessary.

Sincerely,

RON HENDERSON,
Chairman.
DAVID WHITE,
Vice-Chairman.
GARY ELLIS,
Commissioner.

IN HONOR OF MARALIN MANNING
OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Maralin Manning of Quincy, Massachusetts, in recognition of her decades of dedicated service to her community.

The daughter of the late Gertrude Mandros and the late Theodore Mandros, Maralin is a graduate of St. Mary’s, Notre Dame High School and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Massachusetts College of Art. Maralin is also a graduate of the Executive Training Program at Jordan Marsh, Co.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime resident of Quincy, Maralin Manning has been involved with countless business associations and community organizations. She was the director of the Quincy Business Association for twenty-two years before it merged with the Quincy Chamber of Commerce serving as the Chamber’s business development director. Maralin has actively served a number of community organizations including the Board of Directors for the Maria Droste Services, Quincy After School Program, Kiwanis Club of Quincy, Quincy Salvation Army, Impact Quincy, and the Advisory Board of the Quincy High School Career and Technical Training.

Continuing with her commitment to the Quincy community, Maralin has also served with the American Red Cross, Quincy Historic Commission, Quincy Downtown Development Citizens Advisory, Quincy Medical Center Curry Cancer Walk and the Mayor’s Boy

Scout Breakfast, and is a past trustee of the Quincy Historical Society and former board member of the Souther Tide Mill and the USS Salem.

Previously, Maralin was an adjunct instructor at Mount Ida College, served as the director of the Chamberlain School of Retailing and fashion director for Jordan Marsh, Co. She is also an independent lecturer in fashion, color and advertising, and corporate branding.

Prior to living in Quincy, Maralin was an active resident of Milton, Massachusetts, serving as a member of a number of town organizations including the Milton Public Schools PTOs, the Milton Town Republican Committee, and the high school rebuilding committees.

Mr. Speaker, Maralin and her husband Robert are the parents of six children: Patrice Manning Flavin, Moira Manning Shigo, Robert Manning, Gregory Manning, Theodore Manning and Michael Manning. They are also blessed with 17 grandchildren.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with Maralin’s family, friends, her community and the City of Quincy to thank her for her lifetime commitment of dedicated public service. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Maralin Manning.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT,
Crested Butte, CO, March 21, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON, I am writing on behalf of Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) in support of H.R. 3189, the “Water Rights Protection Act.” CBMR currently operates on U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit on over 4,300 acres in Gunnison County and generates over \$28 million dollars into the local economy from destination skiers in lodging, dining, entertainment and retail purchases.

CBMR supports H.R. 3189 because it would prohibit the U.S. Forest Service from requiring our resort to transfer valuable water rights to the Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit, or to apply for water rights in the name of the United States, without compensation. This bill would also prevent the federal government from making an end run around state law by merely taking water rights that it does not own through its permitting authority. It would not only protect ski area water rights—it would protect any water rights owners that operate on federal land.

Furthermore, requiring transfer of valuable water rights to the U.S. Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit raises serious Fifth Amendment concerns. Most Colorado resorts’ water rights were acquired and developed at great expense pursuant to Colorado law, and in some cases pre-date the Forest Service itself. If the U.S. Forest Service wants to secure its own water rights, it should buy them on Colorado’s well-regulated water market like everyone else.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to CBMR and

other ski resorts operating across Colorado on Forest Service lands.

Sincerely,

ETHAN MUELLER,
General Manager.

CONEJOS COUNTY COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Conejos, CO, October 21, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JARED POLIS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES TIPTON AND POLIS: We the Conejos County Board of Commissioners would like to endorse and support the introduction of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act, which will prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

Conejos County is largely owned by the Federal Government in which 62% of the land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. If the USFS attempted to implement a permit condition that required the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a permit condition on National Forest System lands, this would have a devastating effect on our ranchers and farmers and the already strained water situation in Conejos County. It is imperative to protect our privately held water rights, prohibit federal takings and uphold state water laws clarifying that the federal government does not have jurisdiction.

We again offer our support and will watch as this important legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

STEVE MCCARROLL,
Chairman.

COLORADO WATER CONGRESS,
Denver, CO, October 3, 2013.

Re: Colorado Water Congress Supports H.R. 3189, Water Rights Protection Act

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: The Colorado Water Congress is pleased to see the introduction of and hearing for Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA), H.R. 3189. The bipartisan bill was introduced last week. This legislation, with the consensus amendments developed by your office, the national ski areas and Colorado water users would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer or surrender of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of Interior or Agriculture.

The issue is of particular importance to Colorado's ski areas that are located in national forests. The U.S. Forest Service, through a 2012 Interim Directive recently attempted to require the transfer of privately owned water rights on federal lands to the federal government as a condition of issuing standard land use permits.

The National Ski Areas Association sued the Forest Service alleging that the directive amounts to a taking of private property rights without due compensation and asked for a declaration that the Forest Service cannot condition a ski area special use permit on the assignment or severance of water rights. In December 2012, the federal district court entered an injunction prohibiting the Forest Service from enforcing the directive. The court found that the Forest Service violated federal procedural laws in adopting the directive.

This matter is of importance to the Colorado legislature that as recently as late August 2013 continues to investigate Forest Service activities in this regard. It is unfortunate that Colorado water users have to had

to pursue both litigation and legislation to protect our water rights from takings by our Federal government.

We hope that passage of H.R. 3139 will put us on the right path toward a permanent resolution. We urge the House to pass this legislation without delay.

The Colorado Water Congress supports H.R. 3139. Thank you for sponsoring the bill. Best regards,

Best regards,

DOUGLAS KEMPER,
Executive Director.

CLUB 20,

Grand Junction, CO, October 8, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: CLUB 20 strongly urges Congressional support and passage of H. R. 3189, known as the "Water Rights Protection Act."

CLUB 20 is a 60 year old coalition of businesses, individuals and local governments with members representing 22 counties west of the Continental Divide in Colorado. Our members have been coming together over the past six decades to discuss matters of common concern to Western Colorado communities and citizens. Water has often been a focal point for CLUB 20 members as there are far reaching implications to many of the industries, communities and residents on the West Slope regarding privately held water rights in the region.

Water rights are considered private property under Colorado water law and are managed under a strict system that has served the state over time. For many years, CLUB 20 policy has opposed, "... any Federal requirement that permittees assign water rights to the United States in order to obtain, renew or modify federal permits." CLUB 20 understands that the McCarran Amendment requires the federal government, when requested, to adjudicate any water rights it requires under the substantive and procedural elements of state water law within the state of the desired rights.

Our members have openly opposed and continue to oppose the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to unilaterally require ski areas or agriculture producers to turn over their privately held water rights to the USFS as a condition of obtaining, modifying or renewing a permit to conduct ski area activities or maintain infrastructures to convey water on USFS lands. We further oppose any such provision or ruling that may apply to other private water rights with regard to, natural resource development interests or other domestic water interests.

The explanation offered by the USFS for the "taking" of these privately held water rights, often developed at great expense to the owner, is that they wish to maintain the designated use of the water for the permit. We find that explanation disingenuous for the following reasons:

1. Requiring that the USFS be named the owner of valid, existing water rights is taking a private property right without compensation and appears to be a violation of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

2. It would appear that federal ownership of these water rights could be used to disallow future use of the area as a ski area or other designated enterprise because the agency that holds title to the water rights could deny permits based on their withholding of those same water rights.

3. Once promulgated by the USFS regarding ski area and agriculture water rights, similar decisions could be made regarding grazing rights, mining rights, milling rights, energy rights even municipal water rights.

4. This effort by the federal government seeks to undermine states' rights with regard to water management, which our members find unacceptable.

Ski area and agriculture operators invest significant amounts of capital to develop their operations; in order to attract the investment capital necessary, they must show that they have adequate ability to construct and operate the facility. Without demonstrating that they have adequate water rights, attracting capital will be difficult if not impossible. Further, it has been shown time after time that federal regulations can be, and are, routinely modified for one reason or another creating uncertainty for developers of all sorts on public lands. Once held in the name of the USFS, there is no guarantee that these water rights won't be redirected, withheld or otherwise made unavailable to those who made significant investments in developing those rights.

We support the protections inherent in H.R. 3186 and urge passage of this or similar legislation which accomplishes the same purpose. Thank you for addressing this critical issue through the legislative process; we look forward to working with you to see this bill through the process.

Best Regards,

BONNIE PETERSEN,
Executive Director.

AGNC RELEASES STATEMENT ON SKI AREA
WATER RIGHTS ISSUE

RIFLE.—Scott McInnis, Executive Director of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), released a statement today regarding the United States Forest Service's attempt to make the renewal of special-use permits by Colorado ski areas conditional on transference of water rights to the federal government, and efforts in the Colorado State Legislature to prohibit such requirements:

"The AGNC vehemently opposes any attempt by the U.S. Forest Service, or any other federal agency, to make relinquishment of private water rights a condition of permit renewal for users of government lands, as demonstrated against our local ski industry last year. We believe this is in violation of Colorado water law, and represents an egregious intrusion on private property rights.

In addition to the immediate harm done to the property rights of the affected skiing businesses, AGNC is especially concerned with the broader ramifications of this action; what other permit holders on government land will be required to hand over their water rights in order to renew their permits? Energy developers? Farmers and ranchers? Grazing Associations? Local governments maintaining roads or facilities on these lands?

With nearly 70% of northwest Colorado's land being government-owned (over 70% in Mesa and Rio Blanco Counties) it is easy to see how dependent our regional economy is on these lands. Nearly all of our local industries—energy, agriculture, tourism, and transportation, among others—rely on access to government land. It is unconscionable that the agencies charged with managing these lands for multiple uses would use private water rights as bargaining chips in the permit renewal process.

AGNC therefore supports efforts at the state level to prohibit this and similar future actions on the part of the USFS and other federal land management agencies."

CALIFORNIA SKI
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
Mill Valley, CA, October 4, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189

Hon. Doc HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: On behalf of the members and directors of the California Ski Industry Association I am writing to add our support to H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act.

This narrowly focused bill is designed to resolve an unfair regulation requiring Forest Service permittees to cede, without compensation, their water rights to the agency. Nineteen of California's twenty-six ski areas operate on Forest Service lands. We have a long history of working with the agency and will continue to do so in the future. However, our winter sports facilities on federal lands are strongly opposed to the clauses that would require California permittees to cede their valuable water rights to the agency without compensation. Such clauses represent a taking and carry far-reaching legal and economic implications, not only for our industry but also for all other permittees operating on Forest Service lands.

A recent study by San Francisco State University reported that California's winter sports resorts generate \$1.3 billion in economic activity and over 16,000 jobs in our mountain communities. Our resorts have millions of dollars invested in their water rights. In many cases the source of these rights are located outside of the permit boundaries.

We appreciate your scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and thank you and the sponsors of this important legislation.

Yours truly,

BOB ROBERTS,
President & CEO.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AND NANCY LOVE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents John Love, and the marriage of over 50 years to his recently departed wife Nancy.

John is a retired Air Force officer who served his country proudly in Vietnam. He and Nancy met first met on January 6, 1962, at a restaurant in Marquette, Michigan. She was sitting with her mother when John approached the striking brunette to ask her to dance. The rest, as they say, is history.

They got engaged 6 weeks later and were married on May 5, 1962, simply following their hearts.

In May of 2012, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by watching their beloved Detroit Tigers after renewing their vows.

Sadly, Nancy's health deteriorated in the months that followed, passing away in her loving husband's arms in December of that same year. She is buried in Section 66 of Arlington National Cemetery, in a spot next to where John will one day be laid to rest.

The Love family had two sons and five grandchildren, shared and continue to share a close personal relationship, cherishing each other deeply.

While she has left this Earth in physical form, Nancy will always live in John's heart

until they are reunited once more. John has written a love song to Nancy, entitled "My Love Song Forever," produced with John White and D.B. Rielly of WhiteWater Sound Studios in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the kind of love we can all connect with, and appreciate for its intensity and durability over many years. May we all be so lucky to find that special someone.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE HEATH BROTHERS CON- FECTIONARY IN ROBINSON, ILLI- NOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Heath Brothers Confectionary in Robinson, Illinois. Founded one hundred years ago by L.S. Heath and his sons Bayard and Everett, this once small business has expanded to become a global franchise. Over the past 100 years, the Heath Confectionary has produced many successful products, chief among them the Heath Bar, a delicious toffee candy covered in milk chocolate and almonds.

Made by hand until 1942, production of Heath Bars was eventually ramped up to commercial scale to supply American troops during World War II. Throughout the conflict, Heath Bars were a staple of soldiers' rations, providing them with a small taste of home during their long deployments.

Known as "America's Finest," popularity for the candy grew steadily after the war. Recognizing the potential of the Heath Confectionary, the company was eventually acquired by Leif, Inc. in 1989, itself acquired by Hershey in 1996.

Today, Hershey maintains a plant in Robinson, Illinois, producing iconic candies such as Heath Bars, Paydays, Whoppers and Milk Duds. I applaud Hershey for maintaining the plant's roots in Robinson and for their contribution to the community through the creation of jobs and their generous corporate giving.

I invite all members to stop by my office to try a Heath Bar and all of the various other Hershey products produced in our district for themselves.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2014.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I write in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. The NWRA is a

nonprofit federation made up of agricultural and municipal water providers, state associations, and individuals dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and efficient management of our nation's most important natural resource, water. Our members provide clean water to millions of individuals, families, agricultural producers and other businesses throughout the western United States.

Collectively, NWRA members have spent billions of dollars investing in the development of state issued water rights and the associated infrastructure in order to provide a safe and reliable water supply to their customers. Their ability to continue meeting the nation's growing demand for clean water is dependent upon access to this vital resource. The Water Rights Protection Act would protect NWRA members' water rights and those who depend on the water they deliver by preventing federal agencies from making a permit, permit renewal or other action conditional upon surrendering a water right. The protection of water rights is of the utmost importance to our members. Water rights constitute a valuable property right and as such are valuable assets that are often irreplaceable.

For more than eighty years NWRA members have helped finance, maintain and manage some of the most valuable and iconic water systems in the world and have turned virtual deserts into some of the most productive agricultural land on the planet. To accomplish this irrigators have worked collaboratively with federal agency partners at the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers. That collaborative partnership, formed through contracts and other agreements, is protected by this bill. Our members are gravely concerned by recent efforts by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that have made agency actions contingent upon the relinquishment or modification of a water right. These efforts go counter to the principle foundations of western water law, fly in the face of state law and set a dangerous precedent. Our members count on federal infrastructure to deliver both project and non-project water. Non-project water is privately owned; it has not been appropriated, acquired by, or apportioned to, the United States. In addition, many of our members deliver water through facilities that cross USFS or BLM land. The creation of a process through which water deliveries could be made contingent on the modification, relinquishment or surrender of a water right is unacceptable. Moreover, allowing such a precedent would cause this assault on state water rights to spread in various forms to other agencies within the Agriculture and Interior Departments. Congress, needs to provide the respective Secretaries with clear guidance on this subject, H.R. 3189 provides this guidance.

The USFS and BLM efforts to curtail water rights have been focused on western states, but the implementation of this kind of policy would have ramifications throughout the nation. According to the United States Geological Survey, nearly seventy five percent of the irrigated agriculture in the U.S. is found in the seventeen western states. These states on average receive less than twenty inches of rain each year, making the reliable delivery of irrigation water vital. In order to protect our members' water rights, assure the continued delivery of clean water to millions of people and protect the integrity of western water law the NWRA supports the Water Rights Protection Act.

On behalf of NWRA's members I thank you for your attention to the critical water supply issues facing our nation, and for supporting our members as they continue to be

stewards of our nation's water supply and a critical part of the economy.

Sincerely,

ROBERT W. JOHNSON,
Executive Vice President,
National Water Resources Association,
Washington, DC.

WHITE RIVER AND DOUGLAS CREEK
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,
Meeker, CO, January 17, 2014.

Re White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' Support for the Water Rights Protection Act

Representative SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts have been following the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to acquire private water rights from individuals and businesses by holding them hostage through permit issuance and/or renewals.

Our Executive Director joined Club 20 in meetings with USFS Associate Deputy Chief, Jim Pena, in Washington D.C. last May. He adamantly argued that it was the USFS responsibility and right to acquire the private water rights from the ski industry and grazing permittees in order to protect the industries and the economies they support. This is not a role of our federal government or agencies. The purpose and only role of the USFS and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is to manage the land for multiple uses based on the best available science.

It is our opinion that the federal government has neither right nor role to interfere with the individual states' water rights laws and the federal government's efforts as stated above are absolute takings of private property rights.

We applaud you and your colleagues' efforts to ensure the states' and individual's rights are respected by the federal government. The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts strongly support H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act, which would provide federal legislation to protect Colorado's private water rights holders from any takings by federal land management agencies.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in your efforts to protect Colorado's water rights which ensure conservation of our many natural resources, food supply, and thriving economies.

Sincerely,

LEONARD THOMPSON,
President, White River Conservation District.
SCOTT ROBERTSON,
President, Douglas Creek Conservation District.

UPPER ARKANSAS WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT,
Salida, CO, November 7, 2013.

Re H.R. 3189 Water Rights Protection Act
Representative SCOTT TIPTON,
N. Main St.,
Pueblo, CO.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District is a local governmental entity charged through the State of Colorado's Conservancy Statutes to develop water works to optimize the beneficial use of water in Colorado and protect water rights. Charged with this duty, the District owns for the benefit of its constituents within the more than 3000 square miles of the Upper Arkansas River Basin, water rights, storage facilities and other water infrastructure. Many of these facilities are lo-

cated with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and require special use permits.

The cost of the permits undeniably exceeds the benefits provided by these structures and District owned water rights to the citizens of the United States and the forest. However, the USFS continues to charge excessive fees. Repermitting facilities has been expensive and onerous and often comes with conditions that are confiscatory.

For the above reasons and others this district and board fully supports your legislation H.R. 3189. Further it is vital for Colorado's future that more storage be developed and often the best locations are on public lands. Thus the future of our water resources, the lifeblood of an arid climate, is the construction and maintenance of water storage. We support your legislation that helps achieve the goals of water protection and storage in Colorado and the West.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. SENDERHAUF,
Chairman.

THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
Durango, CO, October 10, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("District"), we thank you for sponsoring the Water Rights Protection Act, H.R. 3189. This vital bipartisan bill would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture.

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) was established by the Colorado legislature to conserve and protect the waters of the San Juan and Dolores Rivers and their tributaries. Therefore, we see it as our statutory obligation to safeguard privately held water rights in the region and uphold the primacy of state water law, as H.R. 3189 would do.

The U.S. Forest Service has recently attempted to require the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a condition of acquiring a National Forest System lands permit. The District considers such requirements tantamount to a federal taking, and applauds H.R. 3189's prohibition of such conditions.

The District encourages the House of Representatives to pass this legislation without delay.

We thank you for introducing the Water Rights Protection Act and for your leadership on this issue of great consequence.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WHITEHEAD,
Executive Director.

SAN LUIS VALLEY
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT,
Alamosa, CO, October 28, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JARED POLIS,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES TIPTON AND POLIS: On behalf of the Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, thank you for your introduction of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. The District endorses this Bill, and will work to broaden bipartisan support for this measure and to gain its swift consideration and approval by the House of Representatives.

H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on ex-

isting rights of individuals, states or the federal government. This legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1866; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or U.S. Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and again commend you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,

M. DEE GREEMAN,
President.

SAN LUIS VALLEY COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION,
Alamosa, CO, November 4, 2013.

Hon. Representative SCOTT TIPTON,
Main Street,
Alamosa, CO.

DEAR HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: On behalf of the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association, this letter is being written in support of H.R. 3189.

The San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association fully supports your efforts in the passage of H.R. 3189. Water Rights are very important to the people of the entire San Luis Valley and any effort made to preserve our precious mineral is important because this is an essential part of rural communities.

This proposed legislation would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture from requiring the transfer of water rights without adequate compensation. This bill supports the state water laws that have been established long term and clarifies that the government does not have the jurisdiction.

The San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association strongly urges the Natural Resource Committee to support this essential legislation. Your attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL YOHN,
Chairman.

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Steamboat Springs, CO, March 11, 2014.

Re H.R. 3189
Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON: On behalf of the people of Routt County, Colorado, we are hereby expressing our earnest support for H.R. 3189 aka the "Water Rights Protection Act". This is a timely and necessary piece of legislation. This bill represents no cost to the public and provides needed protection of lawfully held water rights.

Water is an essential property right for business operators ranging from agriculture to ski areas. No operator or property owner should be coerced into surrendering a privately held water right. The opportunity for beneficial use of public lands is a separate right. Federal agencies are charged only with administering permitting and other processes related to public lands. These

agencies should have no authority to use these processes as a mechanism to strip rights from lawful water users.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 3189 and we are happy to provide further support for this effort as necessary.

Cordially,

TIMOTHY V. CORRIGAN,
DOUGLAS B. MONGER,
STEPHEN K. IVANCIE.

RIO GRANDE WATERSHED—ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,
North Center, CO, October 25, 2013.

Re Support of the Water Rights Protection Act H.R. 3189

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
Ranking Member, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS AND RANKING MEMBER DEFAZIO: The Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts (RGWACD) strongly support the Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA), (H.R. 3189). RGWACD is dedicated solely to representing the roughly 2,000 ranchers who operate on federal lands, some of which are U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. Here in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, RGWACD is one of the most active conservation district—watershed groups in Colorado. We represent all faction of agriculture producer and landowner who provide much of the nation's supply of food and own or manage a large portion of America's private property. Many of our members also hold private water rights on federal lands, which serve as an integral part of their operations; thus, these water rights keep our members in business and rural communities thriving. However, landowners face an unprecedented threat to the future of their water rights on lands managed by the USFS.

The USFS has been notorious for violating private property rights, as they have recently attempted to require the transfer of privately owned water rights to the federal government. The USFS has not provided adequate compensation as required by Article V of the Constitution; instead, they have attempted to acquire these rights in exchange for special use permits, likely in violation of a recent Supreme Court ruling in *Koontz*. Furthermore, the USFS has repeatedly ignored established state water laws in order to perform these takes, which amounts to a vast overreach by the federal government.

H.R. 3189, introduced by Congressmen: Scott Tipton (R-Colo.), Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), and Jared Polis (D-Colo.) comes as a means to combat the recent directive that allows the USFS to execute the seizure of these water rights without just compensation. The language in the directive is applicable to ski areas specifically; however, this issue is a threat to all water users, including ranchers, as they depend on these rights to keep their business viable.

This legislation would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from, requiring the transfer of water rights without adequate compensation. Additionally, the bill supports long-established state water laws, clarifying that the federal government does not have jurisdiction.

We strongly encourage the Natural Resource Committee to support this important legislation. We thank you for your attention to this crucial issue, and for supporting our members as they continue to be an essential

part of rural communities and stewards of our public lands.

Sincerely,

HAROLD ANDERSON,
President.

RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
Alamosa, CO, October 15, 2013.

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON: One of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District's purposes is "for the conservation, use and development of the water of the Rio Grande". We understand that there has been an attempt by certain federal agencies to require federal permittees to assign their private water rights to the federal government as a condition of the permit. If this policy continues it will create a great risk to the water users both in the San Luis Valley and statewide. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District supports H.R. 3189, The Water Rights Protection Act, and will work with you to garner support for this bill to ensure protection of privately owned water rights from claims by federal agencies.

As we understand, H.R. 3189 was introduced as a means to protect water users from the seizure of privately owned water rights without just compensation. We believe that H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. It appears to us that this legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1866; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The bill supports long-established recognition of the primacy of state water law and the title to water rights that are established thereunder.

We are aware of no provision in federal statutory law authorizing or permitting the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to require that they be in the name of the United States. H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired water rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not use the permit process to acquire water rights that are owned by non-federal entities.

We thank you for taking a leadership role in addressing this crucial issue and look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

STEVEN VANDIVER,
General Manager.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE CITY'S 60TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Lakewood, CA and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on the city's 60th Anniversary of Incorporation. I am proud

to represent this prospering city—aptly characterized by its motto, "Times Change, Values Don't"—as part of the 38th Congressional District of California.

The City of Lakewood incorporated in 1954, and was the largest planned community in America in the early 1950s. Lakewood was designed to be a livable residential community, with parkways along major roadways to protect children from traffic, a regional shopping center in the middle of the town, and convenient neighborhood shopping places at major intersections.

The City of Lakewood has been known for its careful fiscal management and prudent budgeting. In 1954, the City began to utilize innovative partnerships in contracting for city services. Lakewood's "contract plan" for local government was soon copied in a wave of incorporation movements in Los Angeles County, and later throughout the state. Today, Lakewood is known as a "contract city" and currently contracts for a broad range of services from the County, other agencies, and private firms; including law enforcement, street repairs, fire protections, library services, trash collection and others. This allows the city to provide more efficient and cost-effective services to its residents.

Prioritizing the best interests of its residents, in 2013 Lakewood was able to complete a 12-year street repaving program in which 100% of the city's 143 miles of residential streets were resurfaced with long-lasting rubberized asphalt. The 100 percent completed program—almost unheard of among cities—earned a "Project of the Year" award from the American Public Works Association.

The City of Lakewood thrives on customer service and strives to ensure all resident requests are responded to in a timely manner. In addition, Lakewood takes pride in the fact that city staff has deep roots in the community; many employees were raised here and continue to live in the city. The average employee has worked for the city for many years, maintaining a valuable level of experience and loyalty to the residents of Lakewood.

A top quality recreation service for residents of all ages is a core Lakewood value. In the 1950s, to deal with the surge of young children needing play opportunities after school, the city developed the Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) program staffed by an army of volunteer coaches. LYS and its volunteer coaches provided the supervised play activities that the new families of Lakewood needed. LYS continues to be a key way that Lakewood residents work with their city government to give their children great recreational opportunities. In 2013, for the fourth year in a row, Lakewood was named "Playful City USA" by the national recreation advocacy group KaBoom! in recognition of the city's top quality parks, playgrounds, and programs to encourage youth and family play.

The City of Lakewood was recently considered one of the safest communities in the region, and has seen many innovations and notable achievements in public safety over the years. In the 1980s, Lakewood developed one of the largest Neighborhood Watch programs in California. The city continues to have a prospering program with currently over 400 block captains. Lakewood residents have a tradition of volunteering to help their community and their neighbors in need. Lakewood is the home of many charitable efforts that support a caring community and enhance the

quality of life. Prominent efforts include Project Shepherd, Volunteer Day, Meals on Wheels, Pathways Volunteer Hospice, Friends of the Lakewood Libraries, Lakewood Education Foundation and many more.

The city will be celebrating their 60th anniversary of Incorporation with an open house that will include galleries of historic photos from city archives, portraits of original 1954 homeowners, and other photographs submitted by residents. As the city celebrates this occasion, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city and residents of Lakewood as they celebrate the past and focus on a prosperous future.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the One Hundredth Anniversary of Macedonia Baptist Church of Pensacola, Florida. Throughout the one hundred years of its presence, the pastoral leadership and congregation of Macedonia Baptist Church has provided uplifting and spiritually fortifying service to the Gulf Coast region, and I am privileged to honor their dedication to the Northwest Florida community.

Macedonia Baptist Church traces its roots back to the inspiration of Mother Lula Farris in 1913. Established as Long Faith Baptist Church in 1914 with Reverend Holmes as its first pastor, the church's name was later changed to Macedonia Baptist Church of Pensacola, Florida.

The strength of the congregation and its leadership throughout the church's history is exemplified through its continued growth and commitment to achieve excellence in providing Biblical guidance and Christian education. An integral part of the Baptist Church community, Macedonia Baptist Church has served in various roles, including its active participation in the Florida General Baptist Convention and the licensing of several pastors.

Today, and remarkably for the last 63 consecutive years, Macedonia Baptist Church has been led under the devoted guidance of the Reverend A.L. Durant, Sr., and as a true testament to God's work through His people, the church continues to build God's kingdom and foster spiritual and professional growth by providing religious direction and philanthropy to church members and the surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Macedonia Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating their pastoral leadership and congregation. May the Spirit of the Lord continue to bless the church on this important milestone and the many to come.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

ASPEN SNOWMASS,
ASPEN SKIING COMPANY,
Aspen, CO, October 11, 2013.

Re Support for H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act

HON. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: I am writing on behalf of Aspen Skiing Company, a four-season resort in Aspen and Snowmass Village, Colorado. We employ 3,600 people in winter and host 1.3 million visitors at our four ski mountains, 18 restaurants and two hotels. Most of our operations take place on National Forest System lands under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service.

As you are likely aware, the USFS is trying to require the transfer of privately held water rights to the federal government as a permit condition on National Forest lands. There is no compensation for the transfer of these privately held rights despite the fact that many stakeholders have invested millions of their own capital in developing the rights.

I'm writing in support of H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act, to address this

unfair situation. This bill would prevent the federal government from making an end run around state law by taking water rights that it does not own through its permitting authority.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to Aspen Skiing Company and other Colorado ski resorts operating on federal lands.

Best Regards,

DAVID PERRY,
Senior Vice President.

TRUCKEE-CARSON
IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Fallon, NE, March 13, 2014.

Re Support for "Water Rights Protection Act" (H.R. 3189)

Hon. SCOTT TIPTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TIPTON; On behalf of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (a political subdivision of the State of Nevada), we here express our formal and strong support for your "Water Rights Protection Act" with amendments thereto proposed by you and the Honorable Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma. This legislation signals important recognition and protection to that very special form of property right which allows the use and control of waters for beneficial uses by water right holders. This legislation will prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. We applaud this measure.

Moreover, this Act protects communities, businesses, recreation, farmers and ranchers, and others who rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood from what constitutes a taking without compensation. Our District serves only water users that directly hold their water rights. To all such, these rights are not just important; rather, they are sacred. No justification may be made, no matter how decorative may appear its veneer, for essentially condemning a private property interest, without compensation, for expanded uses by the federal government.

Thank you for your efforts to protect water rights. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

RUSTY D. JARDINE, ESQ.,
District Manager, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.