



Board of County Commissioners

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Senator Kerry Donovan
200 E Colfax, RM 346
Denver, CO 80203

June 24, 2019

Dear Senator Donovan,

You already know this, but Colorado is a special place. Our mountains, rivers, valleys, plains, forests, wildlife, and wilderness are unparalleled and draw visitors from around the world. And with so much to love about our great state, it is not surprising that our population has grown.

In 1930, one million Coloradans called our great state home. Today, more than five million residents live here, a figure that is expected to exceed 10 million by 2050. And as our state's population continues to grow and the effects of climate change take hold, it has been estimated that there will be severe water shortages -- equivalent to the yearly supply needed for approximately 2.5 million residents -- unless climate change and water consumption trends are sufficiently addressed.

We can mitigate this looming catastrophe by acting decisively and acting now. The consequences of inaction will be devastating. That is why we urge you to find a long-term, sustainable source of funding for the Colorado Water Plan and prioritizing the plan's conservation elements.

The same geological forces that shaped our mountains, rivers, valleys, and plains also made us a headwaters state. We are home to the headwaters for some of our nation's most important rivers, including the Colorado, Arkansas, South Platte, and Rio Grande. Our water supply is fundamental to meeting the state's current and future needs, including clean drinking water, agriculture, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and sustaining the natural environment.

Please protect the waterways we hold dear and the life -- and lifestyle -- they support. Please fund the Colorado Water Plan.

Sincerely,

Eagle County Board of Commissioners

Jeanne McQueeney
Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner

Matt Scherr
Commissioner