



May 18, 2015

The Honorable John Barrasso
307 Dirksen SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: H.R. 1140

Dear Senator Barrasso:

On behalf of the Colorado Water Congress, we are writing to express our support for **S. 1140**, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act of 2015. The Colorado Water Congress is the principal voice of Colorado's water community, and our Federal Affairs Committee fully supports this legislation designed to revise the definition of the term "waters of the United States", recently defined in the Federal Register in April 2014.

Colorado Water Congress represents a vast array of Colorado water users, and our agricultural members in particular will greatly appreciate your efforts to protect their ditches and ephemeral streams relied on for irrigation. S. 1140 includes essential definitions for improved understanding of western water law, emphasizing hydrologic conditions and the importance of state ownership of groundwater which plays a critical role in Colorado's priority system.

Furthermore, S. 1140 requires reliance on public comment, economic analysis, advice and recommendations of state and local officials, stakeholders, and other interested parties. It is vital that States retain maximum administrative discretion, without intrusive Federal oversight, in regard to water law and administration.

We appreciate your introducing this legislation and we look forward to working with you and your staff on similar issues to help protect our nation's water resources in the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Kemper
Executive Director

Andy Colosimo
Federal Affairs Committee Chair

Chris Treese
Federal Affairs Committee Vice Chair