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Water Resources Review Committee

State Capitol Building, Room 029
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784
(303) 866-3521



October 27, 2021

Senator Dominick Moreno, Chair
Task Force on Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund
200 East Colfax, #029
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the Task Force on Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund:

On September 14, 2021, the Water Resources Review Committee (WRRC) heard from water experts across the state. These experts discussed the challenges that Colorado is facing when it comes to limited water supply and interstate compact compliance. Colorado is party to numerous interstate compacts and equitable apportionment decrees with downstream states that govern how Colorado must share the water from rivers. This forces Colorado water users to make a variety of efforts to decrease water usage in an effort to maintain compact compliance, putting an economic strain on these communities.

With the increased demand on rivers in Colorado, the state needs to invest additional funding towards water infrastructure to maintain compact compliance, economic viability of river communities, and crucial water resources. Additional funding would allow Colorado to continue to meet state imposed mandates and address challenges associated with soil health, water quality, climate issues, agricultural production, and land use changes. Without increased investment, Colorado may be forced to cut water rights across the state.

The WRRC is requesting that the task force consider Colorado's water needs when making recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor concerning the investment of funds from the federal American Rescue Plan of 2021. One-time investments towards water infrastructure and protection would help ensure the economic stability of communities and the viability of Colorado's water resources.

This letter was approved unanimously by the committee.

If you have any questions or concerns about the WRRC's request, please contact Alexa Kelly, Legislative Council Staff, at alexa.kelly@state.co.us or 303-866-3469.

Sincerely,

Senator Kerry Donovan
Chair, Water Resources Review Committee

cc: Water Resources Review Committee Members
Task Force on Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund Members
Water Resources Review Committee Staff
Task Force on Economic Recovery and Relief Cash Fund Staff