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April 24, 2017

Dear Chairwoman Marble,

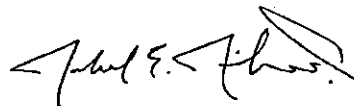
On behalf of Counties and Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT), we are proud to offer support for HB 17-1273 regarding Water Conservation for Real Estate Development. CCAT is a group of counties and individual commissioners across Colorado working to provide a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the statehouse. Collectively CCAT represents all regions of the state and the diversity of issues facing every corner of Colorado.

CCAT Commissioners support this now permissive legislation which strives to integrate water and land use planning and strongly encourage wise use of Colorado's limited water resources. By creating a step for developers to address water conservation prior to receiving a development permit, there will be more of an assurance that outside and inside water use will be integrated into developments and their structures at the design phase leading also to water conservation measures being more thoroughly vetted with local government and community stakeholders.

While CCAT Commissioners support the legislation, we would like to see the effective date of the bill (90 days post adjournment) adjusted to give local governments sufficient time to make necessary code changes, if needed, in order to comply with the bill. Additionally, the term 'development permit' may have different meaning in different jurisdictions, and Commissioners feel the term 'development permit' needs to be clarified by providing a definition of this term within the bill.

As Colorado looks to secure long term economic prosperity across multiple sectors; traditional agriculture, outdoor recreation & tourism, municipal and industrial growth, CCAT supports the overarching concept of alignment between water and land use planning, as water conservation efforts can prevent or reduce over allocation of the state's most precious resource.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and we urge a yes vote on HB 17-1273.



Rachel Richards
Pitkin County Commissioner
Co-Chair, CCAT Steering &
Legislative Committee



Tim Mauck
Clear Creek County Commissioner
Co-Chair, CCAT Steering &
Legislative Committee