

March 25, 2019

Members of the Colorado General Assembly  
Colorado State Capitol Building  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

My name is Kirk Klancke. I am a 48-year resident of the Fraser Valley and recently retired from being Manager of the Winter Park Ranch Water and Sanitation District. I am presently the President of the Colorado River Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Vice President of the Grand County Water Information Network, and a Technical Committee member of Learning-By-Doing.

As Manager of the water and sanitation district I managed the district's water rights and oversaw an instream flow water loan to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This water loan was approved through the cumbersome process of water court. While my district was successful in getting more water in the Fraser River in drought years, other water rights owners that I talked to about potential instream water loans were apprehensive to open their water rights up to scrutiny in the water court process. This is unfortunate because the Fraser River is experiencing poor stream health due to more than half of this river being diverted to the Front Range.

My district board was interested in the water loan for instream flows for two reasons. The first positive that they saw in this loan was its impact on our wastewater treatment plant. Our discharge permit is based on the historic low flow. Increasing low flows meant saving taxpayer dollars because less water treatment is required before discharge. My board was also very interested in keeping more water in the Fraser River to help offset the negative environmental impacts of the transbasin diversions.

Learning-By-Doing is an adaptive management group comprised of partners from both sides of the Continental Divide. Our mission is to use science to find issues with river health in Grand County and to implement solutions to those problems. Finding more water for instream flows is part of the solutions that we are looking into. Since the Fraser River is an altered flow regime it experiences low flow conditions in average and dry years. Low flow conditions can exist in more than 3 out of 10 years and HB19-1218 will help resolve this issue by allowing instream flow loans 5 out of 10 years. For the health of the Fraser River and the wastewater treatment providers on the Fraser River, this bill offers a much needed change from existing instream flow loan laws.

Director of the Department of Environmental Protection  
100 Water Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Tel: 617-725-3300

Dear Mr. Director:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed changes to the  
regulations governing the discharge of pollutants into  
the waters of the Commonwealth. I am a member of the  
Citizens' Committee for the Protection of the Environment  
and I am concerned about the potential impacts of these  
changes on the environment.

As a member of the Citizens' Committee, I have been  
actively involved in the process of reviewing and  
commenting on the proposed regulations. I have  
conducted extensive research and have consulted with  
other members of the committee. I believe that the  
proposed changes are not in the best interests of the  
environment and the public.

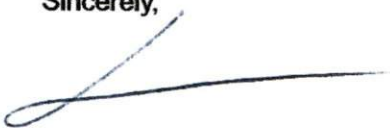
The proposed changes would result in a significant  
increase in the amount of pollutants that can be  
discharged into the waters of the Commonwealth. This  
would be a major step back in the protection of our  
water resources. I believe that the proposed changes  
are not justified and I urge you to reject them.

I am confident that you will take my comments into  
consideration and will make the necessary changes to  
the regulations. I am sure that you will do what is  
best for the environment and the people of the  
Commonwealth. Thank you for your attention to this  
important issue. I will continue to monitor the  
process and will be happy to provide further  
information if needed.

Because most of the Fraser River is diverted to the other side of the Continental Divide, it will experience low flow conditions for perpetuity. Allowing a water loan to be renewed up to 3 times would be an important step in the right direction for helping improve low flows in the Fraser River.

Finding the balance between the need to divert rivers from the West Slope and keeping those rivers healthy for the use and enjoyment of all Colorado residents is a challenge that this General Assembly should address. HB19-1218 is an important step in the right direction. For the sake of the Fraser River and all of Colorado's rivers, I strongly urge all of you to support this bill.

Sincerely,



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