



# Delta County

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Delta County Administration Building | 560 Dodge Street - Delta, CO 81416

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Lauren Boebert  
United States House of Representatives  
1713 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Washington DC

RE: Authorizing Legislation for Upper Colorado and San Juan Endangered Fish Recovery Programs

Dear Representative Boebert,

Delta County appreciates your past support for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Endangered Fish Recovery Programs, including your previous co-sponsorship of H. R. 5001. The legislation (P. L. 106-392 as amended) authorizing federal cost-sharing for the recovery programs through appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation expires on September 30, 2023.

We very much appreciate your efforts over the last several months to develop legislation reauthorizing federal cost-sharing for the recovery programs. Our understanding is that the legislation authorizes continued funding for 7 years, with \$50 million for capital projects for the recovery programs and \$70 million for annual funding, both to be provided by appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation. We support the introduction of the reauthorizing legislation at the earliest possible date.

The recovery programs provide the Endangered Species Act compliance for 2,500 water projects in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The programs are also engaged in recovery of four endangered fish. The efforts are successful in preserving and moving the species toward recovery.

We are concerned that the \$70 million for annual funding is below the amount requested by participants in the two recovery programs. However, we are aware that current rules of the House of Representatives limit the amount to be authorized without compliance with the "pay-go" rule. We will continue working with you and other representatives of the four states' delegations to address this issue.

Once again, thank you for your support of these vital programs.

Wendell A. Koontz  
Chair, Delta County Board of Commissioners