



July 10, 2023

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

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

Dear Representative Boebert,

We appreciate 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 introduction of the reauthorizing legislation at the earliest possible date.

The recovery programs provide for 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 species. Those efforts are successful in preserving and moving the species towards 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, thanks for your support of these vital programs.

Sincerely,

Alden Vanden Brink

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alden Vanden Brink". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "B".

District Manager

Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District