



## Rio Grande Water Conservation District

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*Protecting & Conserving San Luis Valley Water*

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

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

Dear Representative Boebert:

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is responsible for the Rio Grande watershed in Colorado, which is south of the Upper Colorado River Basin and east of the San Juan River Basin. Its citizens are not directly impacted by the Upper Colorado and San Juan Endangered Fish Recovery Programs (Programs). However, the Rio Grande Basin has its own threatened and endangered aquatic species, and we appreciate the importance of the Programs to our neighboring Basins, and our Basin is home to Colorado's Native Species Hatchery.

We understand you are leading efforts to reauthorize the Programs and we support your efforts over the last several months to develop legislation reauthorizing federal cost sharing for the Programs. Our understanding is that the legislation authorizes continued funding for seven years with \$50 million for capital projects tied to recovery programs and \$70 million of annual funding, both to be provided by appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation.

We support introduction of this reauthorizing legislation for the Program at the earliest possible date. The Programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance for the ongoing operation of 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 proving to be successful in preserving the species and moving the species towards recovery. We support that goal.

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

Cleave Simpson  
General Manager, Rio Grande Water Conservation District