

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Office of the Chairman

Mr. Manuel Heart
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July 7, 2023

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

Subject: Legislation, P.L.106-392 as amended, Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Reauthorization Act of 2023

Dear Representative Boebert:

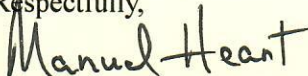
The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe appreciates your past and present support for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Programs, including co-sponsorship of H. R. 5001. Legislation, P. L. 106- 392 as amended, intends to reauthorize the federal cost sharing for the recovery programs through appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation, set to expire on September 30, 2023. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe supports introduction of the reauthorizing legislation at the earliest possible date.

Your efforts taken over the last several months to develop legislation reauthorizing federal cost sharing for the recovery programs have been recognized by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The legislation will reauthorize continued funding for 7 years to appropriate \$50 million for capital projects under the recovery programs and \$70 million for annual funding to the Bureau of Reclamation. One concern is the \$70 million for annual funding, which is well below the amount requested by the participants in the Recovery Programs. However, we are aware that the current rules of the House of Representatives limit the amount to be authorized without compliance with the "pay go" rule.

The Recovery Programs provide important compliance for the Endangered Species Act that includes 2,500 water projects in the Upper Basin states and tribal land. The Recovery Programs are very successful in recovering and preserving the four threatened and endangered fish species: bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback shub, and razorback sucker

Thank you for your continued support of these vital programs.

Respectfully,



Manuel Heart
Chairman

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