

# SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P. O. Box 637      296 Miles Street  
Center, Colorado 81125-0637

719-754-2254

March 6, 2015

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton  
609 Main Street, Suite 105, Box 11  
Alamosa, CO 81101

Attn: Brenda Felmlee,  
San Luis Valley Regional Field Representative

Dear Representative Tipton,

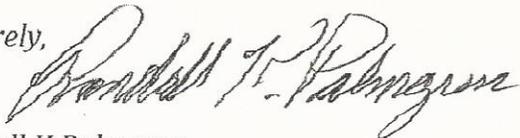
*The Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District strongly support the Healthy Forest Management Act of 2015.*

*The State of Colorado has been impacted by drought and extensive insect infestation of the Pine and Spruce Beetle. The upper Rio Grande Basin is the water shed for over 300,000 acres of highly productive farm ground. It has been determined that over 400,000 acres in the upper Rio Grande water shed have been infected by the Spruce Beetle. The San Luis Valley Irrigation District owns and operates the Rio Grande Reservoir, which is surrounded by beetle kill trees. The District supports and encourages the concepts within this act that provide flexibility and cooperation between Federal, State, and Local governments to actually initiate mitigation matters.*

*Time is of the essence to productively address healthy forest health restoration activities. The Healthy Forest Management of 2015 provides for local involvement in forest stewardship and a common sense approach to long term forest health projects.*

*Thank you for your commitment and leadership in sponsoring this important legislation.*

Sincerely,



Randall K Palmgren  
President, San Luis Valley Irrigation District

# SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P. O. Box 637      296 Miles Street  
Center, Colorado 81125-0637

719-754-2254

March 6, 2015

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton  
609 Main Street, Suite 105, Box 11  
Alamosa, CO 81101

Attn: Brenda Felmlee,  
San Luis Valley Regional Field Representative  
Saguache County Commissioners  
Dear Commissioners,

Dear Representative Tipton,

*This letter is written on behalf of the Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District, to express our strong support of the Water Rights Protection Act of 2015.*

*The San Luis Valley Irrigation District owns and operates Rio Grande Reservoir, the only pre compact, on channel reservoir on the Rio Grande in Colorado. The District owns surface water rights, and delivers water thru the Farmers Union Canal for the irrigation of 62,000 acres of highly valuable agricultural ground in the heart of the San Luis Valley.*

*Water Users of Colorado have been subject to the far overreach of the U.S. Forest Service regarding the recognition of State laws and private water rights. The desire to federalize Colorado's water resources by the U.S. Forest Service undermines the State's jurisdiction regarding water right administration.*

*Colorado water users have been held hostage by the U.S. Service when special use permits are being renewed. It is time the western states make a strong statement regarding this important issue. Thank you for having the courage to challenge the Federal agencies, and causing them to recognize and respect State water law and protect private property rights.*

*The San Luis Valley Irrigation District fully supports the Water Rights Protection Act of 2015*

Respectfully,



Randall K. Palmgren,  
President, San Luis Valley Irrigation District