



Colorado Wool Growers Association

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The Honorable Scott Tipton
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
tim.martin@mail.house.gov

April 6, 2015

Re: Water Rights Protection Act

Dear Representative Tipton:

The Colorado Wool Growers Association is the industry voice for the Colorado sheep industry, and our organization represents sheep farmers and ranchers across the state of Colorado. We strongly support the *Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA)*.

The federal government (U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) continue to aggressively pursue stripping away privately held water rights, ignoring state water law. The *WRPA* prohibits the federal government from seizing water rights as a condition of permit renewal for use of federal land. The *WRPA* also prevents the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture from stealing groundwater that has been historically controlled by the states.

We do not believe the federal government has authority to assert jurisdiction over groundwater or force owners of privately held water rights to give up those rights as a condition of using tax-payer funded, multiple-use lands.

Thank you for your efforts to uphold state water law, and protect individual rights.

Respectfully,

Spence Rule
President