

October 4, 2013

The Honorable Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Polis  
1433 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Tipton and Polis:

On behalf of more than 6 million Farm Bureau member families across the United States, I commend you for your introduction of H.R. 3189, *the Water Rights Protection Act*. The American Farm Bureau Federation endorses the Tipton-Polis bill, and will work closely with you to broaden bipartisan support for this measure and to gain its swift consideration and approval by the House of Representatives.

H.R. 3189 grants no new rights to any party, nor does it in any way infringe on existing rights of individuals, states or the federal government. This legislation simply reaffirms what has been existing law for generations and which is expressed in numerous places in federal law, including the Mining Act of 1866; the 1897 Organic Act establishing the U.S. Forest Service; the Taylor Grazing Act; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

There is no provision in federal law authorizing or permitting the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to compel owners of lawfully acquired water rights to surrender those rights or to acquire them in the name of the United States. Thus, H.R. 3189 does nothing more than assure holders of BLM or Forest Service permits that their lawfully acquired rights will not be abridged and that federal agencies may not unlawfully use the permit process to acquire rights they do not currently possess.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and again commend you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,



Bob Stallman  
President