



MONTROSE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Congressman Scott Tipton
225 N. 5th St., Suite 702
Grand Junction, CO. 81501

April 22, 2015

Dear Mr. Tipton:

On behalf of the people of Montrose County, Colorado, we are hereby expressing our earnest support for H.R. 1830 aka the "Water Rights Protection Act". This is a timely and necessary piece of legislation.

Water is an essential property right for business operators ranging from agriculture to ski areas. No operator or property owner should be coerced into surrendering a privately held water right. The opportunity for beneficial use of public lands is a separate right. Federal agencies are charged only with administering permitting and other processes related to public lands. These agencies should have no authority to use these processes as a mechanism to strip valid rights from lawful water users.

We appreciate that the bill would attempt to resolve conflicts between federal agencies and state water law. Water law varies across the nation. It is therefore necessary for federal agencies to recognize the important differences that exist among the states in dealing with water issues. This bill would lead to much needed recognition of the varied administration of water by the states and will hopefully lead to more equitable dealings between water rights holders and federal agencies.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 1830 and we are happy to provide further support for this effort as necessary.

Sincerely,

David White
by *Jon Waschbusch*

David White
Chairman

Glen Davis

Glen Davis
Vice-Chairman

Ronald Henderson

Ron Henderson
Commissioner