



UPPER ARKANSAS  
**WATER CONSERVANCY**  
D I S T R I C T

Via: Email

May 12, 2017

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton  
503 N. Main St., Suite 658  
Pueblo, CO 81003

Re: Water Rights Protection Act, Formerly HR 3189

Dear Congressman Tipton:

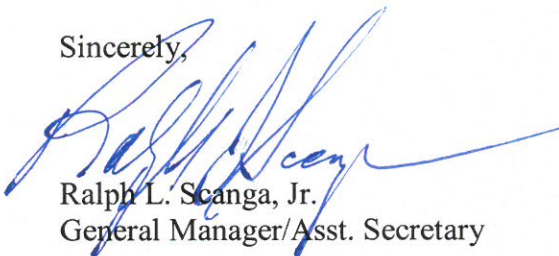
We understand that you will be introducing legislation for water rights protection similar to HR 3189 introduced by you several years ago. The District supports such legislation.

The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District is a local governmental entity charged through the State of Colorado's Conservancy Statutes to develop water works to optimize the beneficial use of water in Colorado and protect water rights. Charged with this duty the District, owns for the benefit of its constituents within the more than 3000 square miles of the Upper Arkansas River Basin, water rights, storage facilities and other water infrastructure. Many of these facilities are located with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and require special use permits.

The cost of the permits undeniably exceeds the benefits provided by these structures and District owned water rights to the citizens of the United States and the forest. However the USFS continues to charge excessive fees. Re-permitting facilities has been expensive and onerous and often comes with conditions that are confiscatory.

For the above reasons and others this district and board fully supports Congressman Tipton's water rights protection act legislation for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Further it is vital for Colorado's future that more storage be developed and often the best locations are on public lands. Thus the future of our water resources, the life blood of an arid climate, is the construction and maintenance of water storage. We ask your support of legislation that helps achieve the goals of water protection and storage in Colorado and the West.

Sincerely,



Ralph L. Scanga, Jr.  
General Manager/Asst. Secretary