



311 N. Henson St. Lake City, Colorado 81235 970-944-2225 [www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us](http://www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us)

---

May 17, 2017

Congressman Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tipton:

As citizens of our state and members of our community, we are most grateful for all that you do for the State of Colorado. Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns regarding our ownership rights and Colorado's water with you.

The Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners is in full support of your reintroduction of the "Water Rights Protection Act" to the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Your time and effort on this matter is imperative.

As a collective board, we would like to express our concern regarding the negative impact that attempts by the USFS to implement a permit condition requiring transfer of privately held water rights to the Federal Government on National Forest System lands, while offering no compensation is unacceptable. Such action is a direct threat to the rights of our water owners, local economy and ultimately our state.

Hinsdale County's values are historically ingrained as a "right to farm and ranch" community and the wellbeing of our agricultural economy and community is entirely dependent upon our water resources. Such methods of acquisition will ultimately produce devastating results on a multitude of levels. The headwaters for three basins are located in Hinsdale County, creating a *legacy* of understanding water, its ownership and value.

The Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners, sincerely appreciates your time and consideration in allowing us to share our thoughts and concerns regarding this issue and its detrimental impact to our community and this great state.

Respectfully,

Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stan Whinnery".

Stan Whinnery

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Thompson".

Susan Thompson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy Dozier".

Cindy Dozier

Chair