



**COLORADO**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

District 1 - John Justman 970-244-1605  
District 2 - Scott McInnis 970-244-1604  
District 3 - Rose Pugliese 970-244-1606

---

P.O. Box 20,000 544 Rood Avenue Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5010 mcbocc@mesacounty.us Fax (970) 244-1639

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Letter of Support for the *Water Rights Protection Act*

Dear Congressman Tipton:

The Board of Mesa County Commissioners submits this letter in strong support of *Water Rights Protection Act* for the 115th Congress, which seeks to protect western communities from federal overreach especially in Mesa County where agriculture is a vital part of our economy.

The expansion of federal oversight is an abusive invasion of private property rights, and an infringement of state and local government rights to regulate water. The U.S. Forest Service (USFC) and other federal land management agencies have consistently tried to disregard state law and take private water rights, regardless of the firm objection from local elected officials, business owners, and private property advocates.

Mesa County strongly supports this legislation because it offers an opportunity to protect private property rights. Mesa County will continue to fight against the erosion of our most fundamental rights on behalf of our constituents. Therefore we respectfully urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to this legislative measure moving forward to benefit our communities who rely on privately held water rights for their livelihood.

Sincerley,

Scott McInnis, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

Rose Pugliese  
Commissioner

John Justman  
Commissioner