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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4329

March 16, 2006

The Honorable David Hobson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2362B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson:

We, the undersigned members of the Colorado delegation, respectfully request that the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee continue the funding for the Chatfield, Cherry Creek and Bear Creek Reservoirs, Colorado, Omaha District, General Investigations Study. The Army Corps of Engineers' capability for the continuation of this study in FY07 is \$500,000, which will be matched with a commensurate amount of local resources through cash and in-kind services. Funding for this study began in 1999 and has continued through 2006. The federal cost through FY06 is estimated to be \$1,564,000 and local share is estimated to be \$1,565,000 including \$518,000 in in-kind and \$1,047,000 in cash.

The study area, which includes the three Corps of Engineers' projects (Tri-Lakes) located in the Denver Metropolitan area, includes the South Platte River downstream from the Corps' projects, because of the potential impacts that may be identified during the study. The study will examine the potential for reassigning storage in the reservoirs for joint uses, including flood control and conservation, fishery habitat protection and enhancement, municipal and industrial water supply, agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and recreation. The study will also examine the potential to use reallocated storage to assure a water source for numerous environmental restoration projects being undertaken or envisioned, in the South Platte River floodplain downstream from the projects.

The study has strong potential to identify improved allocation of storage that the Corps of Engineers has determined is available in Chatfield reservoir. This, in turn, can help to address the great need for water supply in the South Platte River watershed while at the same time increasing the environmental and recreational benefits to the river corridor downstream of the reservoir through improved releases.

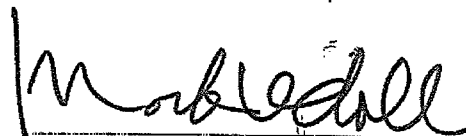
It will take the Omaha Corps and local sponsors one to two more years to complete the study, which is vital to the dozens of local water users and water interests that share the South Platte River resources.

We recognize the difficult decisions you must make given the current budget climate, and hope you recognize the importance of this study, which has already received federal and local support.

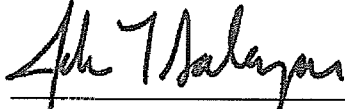
Sincerely,



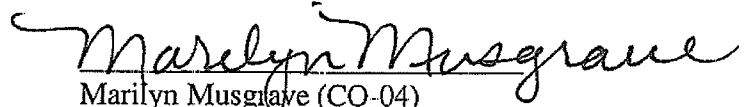
Diana DeGette (CO-01)
Member of Congress



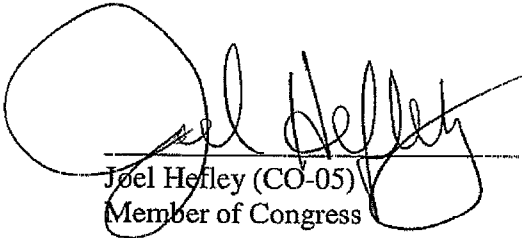
Mark Udall (CO-02)
Member of Congress



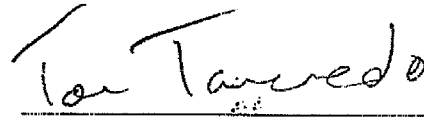
John Salazar (CO-03)
Member of Congress



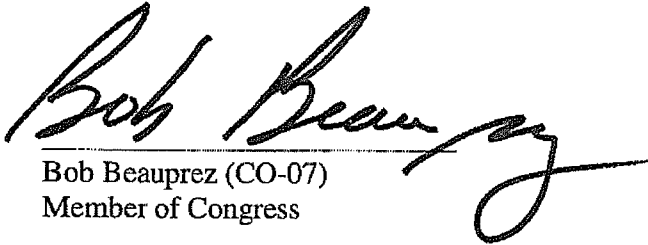
Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04)
Member of Congress



Joel Hefley (CO-05)
Member of Congress



Tom Tancredo (CO-06)
Member of Congress



Bob Beauprez (CO-07)
Member of Congress