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www.co.routt.co.us

Timothy V. Corrigan
District I

Douglas B. Monger
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M. Elizabeth Melton
District III

June 24, 2019

The Honorable Jared Polis
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Bob Rankin
Colorado Senate
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 346
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Dylan Roberts
Colorado House of Representatives
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 307
Denver, CO 80203

Governor Polis, Senator Rankin, and Representative Roberts:

Routt County is a special place. As a representation of Colorado, it is a place that relies on agriculture and outdoor recreation to fuel our economy with the Yampa River at the root of all we do. While we are fortunate to have plenty of water this year, last year was a different story. This time last year, fishing was closed on the Yampa below Stagecoach Reservoir and we were already feeling the strain on our water supply, not to mention the first-ever call on water rights along the Yampa that was to come later in the summer. As climate change and population growth continue to play a larger role in our lives, our water supply will continue to experience increased stress resulting in pressure on Colorado and all of its inhabitants.

It is no surprise that--in a state as arid as Colorado--water is a strained resource. To safeguard the success and the quality of life of every Coloradan, it is critical that we act to ensure water security in our future.

The Colorado Water Plan is a tangible path to address the future needs of our state. This roadmap was crafted through an in-depth stakeholder process with major input focused on conservation measures. It is important that municipalities and agricultural producers work collaboratively toward sustainable use that ensures plenty of water is



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available for agriculture, cities, and healthy riparian corridors. The system put forth in the Colorado Water Plan accomplishes this and as we work to implement this Plan it is vital that we find additional long-term, sustainable funding source to further fund the Plan.

While some strides were made by our State Legislators this year there is more progress that needs to be made. Allocation of General Funds for the first time since the introduction of the Colorado Water Plan in 2015 and HB 19-1327, Authorize and Tax Sports Betting Refer Under Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, were important steps toward funding the Water Plan. However, these funding measures only act as a down payment. Without further funding this plan will be difficult to implement and our water future will continue to be uncertain.

As erratic weather becomes more common it is imperative that we work together to find long-term, sustainable funding for the Colorado Water Plan. Coloradans, those who rely on the water that leaves Colorado, and the ecosystems of Colorado depend on all of us as elected officials to address the water supply in our state. Without addressing this important resource our economy, ecosystems, and people will suffer.

Please continue your support of this vital resource and find long-term, sustainable funding for the Colorado Water Plan.

Sincerely,
THE ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair

