

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 24, 2010

Jim Martin  
Regional Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

Col. Robert Ruch  
Commander  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District  
1616 Capitol Avenue  
CENWO-PM-A, Suite 739  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4901

Dear Mr. Martin and Colonel Ruch:

We write to encourage you to expeditiously resolve any issues between the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 8 and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Omaha District regarding the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement (FS/EIS). While we understand your agencies may have different views on how to prepare the environmental impact statement, we do not want any potential differences to unduly impede progress on a project to meet critical needs for agricultural and municipal water supplies along the Front Range and in northeastern Colorado.

Colorado faces a water supply crisis. The Colorado Water Conservation Board issued a report in November 2007 that estimates the water supply shortfall in 2030 for the South Platte River Basin to be 90,600 acre-feet. The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project will not address the entire shortfall, but the preferred alternative of 20,600 additional acre-feet of storage will help to lessen it.

Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation brings together diverse and often competing interests in the pursuit of a common goal – increasing the storage capacity of an existing flood control reservoir, resulting in improved yields for central and northeastern Colorado. If issues between EPA, Region 8 and USACE, Omaha District cannot be resolved, we are concerned that an opportunity to secure additional water storage in an environmentally responsible manner in Colorado could be lost.

The Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation project will contribute to solving critical multi-use water supply needs along the South Platte River in northeastern Colorado and metropolitan Denver.

The project enjoys broad support from the state (including the governor and the state legislature) and municipal, agricultural, and environmental interests. It would:

- Make use of an existing water storage facility to meet additional water demands;
- Avoid the difficulties and expense of constructing a new water storage facility;
- Reduce cities' and special districts' dependence on non-renewable groundwater; and
- Provide for enhanced in-stream flows, resulting in environmental and recreational benefits, particularly in drought years, along the South Platte River in the 53-mile Denver river corridor from Chatfield Reservoir to below the Adams County-Weld County line.

While we understand that staff from your agencies have been working to come to an agreement regarding the FS/EIS, we are also concerned that the FS/EIS is approaching critical milestones. As a result, we encourage your agencies to reach an agreement in a timely manner. We also encourage full stakeholder participation in these discussions, including the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation water providers.

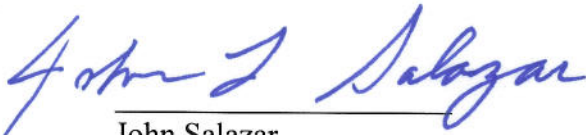
Sincerely,



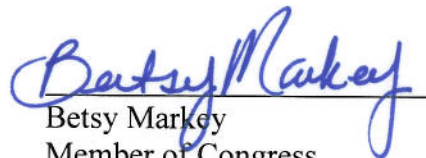
Mark Udall  
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator



John Salazar  
Member of Congress



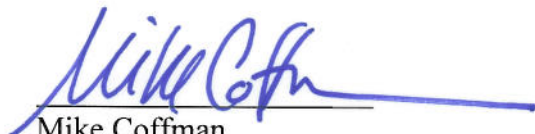
Betsy Markey  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



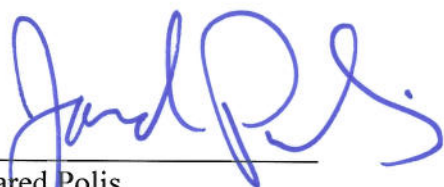
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Jared Polis  
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