

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Feinstein and Senator Alexander:

I am requesting your support for appropriation of \$11,037,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation included in the President's fiscal year 2012 recommended budget in the Great Plains Region budget line-item entitled "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program (Platte River Recovery Implementation Program)." This budget line-item provides for land, water and management activities for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program is a highly successful collaborative conservation partnership working to recover four threatened and endangered species—while at the same time allowing water use and development to continue in our growing western communities. This program involves the States of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado, federal agencies, and many water, power and environmental interests. This Program provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for water projects and fully complies with the participating states' water law and with interstate river compacts and decrees.

Since 2007, this program has provided ESA Section 7 compliance (without litigation) for many federal, state, local and privately managed water projects. The Department of the Interior recognized this program with its nation-wide Cooperative Conservation Award in April 2008 as an outstanding collaborative partnership. A substantial amount (exceeding 50%) of the funding for this program is achieved through non-federal cost-sharing.

I am writing to support this region-wide cooperative recovery program. On behalf of the State of Colorado, I request the Subcommittee's approval of this budget line-item. It is essential that fiscal year 2012 funding be provided within the Bureau of Reclamation's budget appropriation to ensure the Bureau of Reclamation's continued financial participation in the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

Senators Feinstein and Alexander
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On behalf of the State of Colorado, I thank the Subcommittee for its past support and assistance; it has greatly facilitated the ongoing and continuing success of this multi-state, multi-agency program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

cc: Senator Mark Udall
Senator Michael Bennet
Governor Matt Mead
Governor Dave Heineman