

**BEFORE THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF COLORADO**

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE RULEMAKING HEARING TO REVISE RULES  
CONCERNING THE COLORADO INSTREAM FLOW AND NATURAL LAKE  
LEVEL PROGRAM, 2 CCR 408-2**

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**TESTIMONY OF DREW PETERNELL, DIRECTOR OF TROUT UNLIMITED'S  
COLORADO WATER PROGRAM**

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Good morning Colorado Water Conservation Board members. My name is Drew Peternell. I am the director of the Colorado water program for Trout Unlimited. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Trout Unlimited is a national, non-profit fisheries conservation organization. Across the country, TU volunteers and staff work to protect and restore coldwater habitat for trout and salmon. Here in Colorado, my program focuses on assuring that rivers and streams have adequate habitat and adequate flow to sustain healthy fisheries.

TU strongly supports the CWCB's ISF program and the temporary ISF loan program, in particular. We have participated in temporary ISF loan projects on a couple of occasions. We see the temporary loan program as an opportunity to benefit the environment while giving water rights holders more freedom to choose what to do with their property rights without the costs of going to water court. Avoiding water court is a necessity for many of the farm and ranch families that we work with.

The temporary loan program has operated successfully for many years. Prior to the passage of House Bill 20-1157, however, there were some significant statutory limitations on the program. House Bill 20-1157 removes a number of those limitations, and we believe that with that, we will see the temporary loan program grow to broader application.

Your staff and the Attorney General's office have done an excellent job of drafting rules that implement House Bill 20-1157 and of explaining the substance of the rules to you. Rather than going into any detail regarding the proposed rules, I will limit myself to saying that we support the rules, we appreciate the effort that has gone into preparing them, and we urge the board to adopt them.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer questions.

TROUT UNLIMITED



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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that i have duly served the copies of the foregoing **Testimony of Drew Peternell, Director of Trout Unlimited’s Colorado Water Program** upon all parties herein by electronic mail, this 12th day of January, 2021, addressed as follows:


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/s/   
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