



May 18, 2015

The Honorable Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: H.R. 1830**

Dear Congressman Tipton:

At its most recent Federal Affairs Committee meeting, the Colorado Water Congress reviewed and agreed unanimously to **support H.R. 1830**.

The Federal Affairs Committee and the Colorado Water Congress as a whole appreciates your introducing a bill to help protect Colorado's water. Over the past year we have seen attempts by the Forest Service to force ski areas to relinquish their water rights simply to make administrative modifications to special use permits. This exercise of agency overreach in contrary to Colorado water law.

The Colorado Water Congress appreciates your effort to educate others on the importance of privately held water rights to the West's economy and culture. Should the lawful water rights of ski areas and other private water rights holders be ignored, water would cease to hold the value that it does today. Furthermore, a federal takings of water rights would not long allow for investment in the free market, thus diminishing a substantial sector of the Colorado economy.

Protecting privately held water rights is a top priority for the Colorado Water Congress and we support any effort on the federal level to do so. The Colorado Water Congress looks forward to continuing to work with you and your staff by supporting sound legislation protecting western water and water rights holders.

Sincerely,

Douglas Kemper  
Executive Director

Andy Colosimo  
Federal Affairs Committee Chair

Chris Treese  
Federal Affairs Committee Vice Chair