



June 10, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1326 Longworth  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Mike Conaway  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth  
Washington, D.C., 20515

**RE: H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015**

Dear Chairmen Bishop and Conaway, and Ranking Member Grijalva and Peterson

On behalf of the Colorado Water Congress (CWC), we are writing to express our support for **H.R. 2647**, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015. The Colorado Water Congress is the principal voice of Colorado's water interests and represents a vast array of water users across the state.

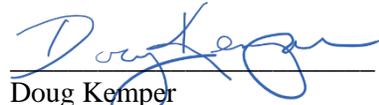
CWC's members understand the imperative of dealing with drought and related water supply challenges facing our nation. The overwhelming majority of the water our members divert and/or store for beneficial use originates on federal forest lands. Hence, our members are greatly concerned about the condition of our nation's forests. Water providers often partner with federal land managers to accelerate our mutual efforts to improve forest and watershed conditions. CWC member efforts include contributing financially toward forest treatment and watershed protection projects in priority watersheds critical to water supply. Several Front Range entities have spent millions of dollars through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and other programs to fund treatment and restoration projects

Protecting the headwaters of the West and "securing favorable water flows" is one of the foundational purposes of the National Forest System. Water providers and the U.S. Forest Service have a shared interest in improving forest and watershed conditions to protect water supplies and water quality, as well as continuing to provide other public benefits, such as wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. Today the unhealthy state of our forests has led to catastrophic wildfires that threaten the sustainability and quality of drinking water for Colorado residents.

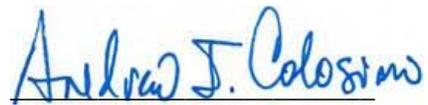
CWC believes that H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, will help address a number of our forest health concerns. The bill builds on the collaborative relationships that many of our members have established with federal land managers. It also empowers federal land managers at the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management by providing them with new tools that can be utilized to protect and improve the condition of our nation's forested watersheds.

On behalf of CWC's members, we thank you for your attention to the critical water issues facing our nation and for supporting our members as they continue to be stewards of our nation's water supply and a critical part of the economy.

Sincerely,



Doug Kemper  
Executive Director



Andy Colosimo  
Federal Affairs Committee Chair



Chris Treese  
Federal Affairs Committee Vice Chair