



May 18, 2015

The Honorable Cory Gardner
Senate Dirksen Office Building SD-B40B
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 1036

Dear Senator Gardner:

On behalf of the Colorado Water Congress, we are writing to express our support for the **S. 1036**, Sage Grouse Protection and Conservation Act. The Colorado Water Congress is the principal voice of Colorado's water interests.

Colorado Water Congress supports the intent of the legislation to allow states to create and implement state-specific conservation and management plans that will protect and restore the sage grouse in lieu of listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Species Act reform continues to be one of the top legislative and regulatory priorities for the Colorado Water Congress membership. We have a long history of supporting a broadly inclusive cooperative approach to preventing the decline of native species. Further, we strongly support the State of Colorado's active participation in efforts to preserve habitat and reduce adverse impacts to native species.

Colorado's water providers strongly support the intent of the ESA and appreciate your efforts to improve the recovery process and enhance the state's role in these programs.

Sincerely,

Doug Kemper
Executive Director

Andy Colosimo
Federal Affairs Committee Chair

Chris Treese
Federal Affairs Committee Vice Chair