



Colorado Springs Utilities
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September 8, 2014

Honorable Jared Polis
United States House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Letter of support concerning the designation of the Tenmile and Hoosier Ridge Wilderness and Special Management Areas of the Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act

Dear Representative Polis,

Thank you for introducing HR 5311, the "Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act." Colorado Springs Utilities is committed to preserving wilderness values in order to meet the current and future water needs of our community and we feel that the introduced version of HR 5311 stands in support of these values.

While both the Tenmile and Hoosier Ridge proposals had the potential to disrupt critical elements of Utilities' existing and future water supply developments in the Blue River Watershed, I very much appreciate the collaborative spirit between your staff, the Wilderness Society, Conservation Colorado, and our staff here from Utilities to find a reasonable solution of compromise that upholds the best interest of all parties.

Utilities' continues to work with other entities from Colorado's Eastern and Western Slopes on a cooperative, joint use project in the Eagle River Basin as a signatory to the Eagle River Memorandum of Understanding (ERMOU). As we continue to work with our partners to explore project development alternatives, it is critical that future wilderness proposals provide for the ability of water providers to develop their conditional water rights in the Eagle River Basin and construct projects that are essential to meet future water supply needs in a manner that is both cost effective and protective of environmental values. As a partner of the ERMOU, Utilities' support of future wilderness proposals will require accommodations for the development of conditional rights and necessary infrastructure in the Upper Eagle River Basin, including the Homestake Creek Valley, as we have discussed previously.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your staff on resource management issues, including current and future wilderness proposals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or require additional information from Utilities.

Sincerely,

Gary Bostrom, P.E.
Chief Water Services Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities