



**RMFU Rocky Mountain
Farmers Union**



February 13, 2012

Representative Scott Tipton
225 North 5th Street, Suite 702
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Dear Representative Tipton,

I am writing on behalf of our members in Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming to express our disappointment over your failure to support the Napolitano Amendment to Rep. Doug Lamborn's PIONEER bill. As Coloradans we all value our water, but for farmers and ranchers, it's our economic lifeblood. With water shortages and drought on the horizon, we can't gamble away our water and the farming and ranching industry that we depend on for the promises of oil shale speculation.

You have said you agree that water studies are needed to protect our agricultural water and way of life. But your No vote in committee defeated an attempt to temper Rep. Lamborn's bill by requiring the U.S. Geological Survey to study the impact of oil shale on water quality and quantity for municipal and agricultural users.

Representative Tipton, we need those studies. As Bill Midcap, our Director of Renewable Energy Development, has said, "We already face a water shortage in the West that threatens farmers and ranchers. The nation cannot let industry take our water for oil shale development at the risk of losing the farming and ranching economy that we depend upon for our food and fiber. The Western Slope doesn't have water to spare. Agriculture is crucial to Colorado's economy and is helping pull the state and its rural communities out of the recession."

Oil shale development is not ready for prime time, Representative Tipton. Please reconsider your green light vote and protect the livelihood of your rural constituents.

Sincerely,

Kent Pepler, President
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Cc: Representative Ed Perlmutter
Representative Mike Coffman
Representative Doug Lamborn
Representative Corey Gardner
Representative Jared Polis
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Martin Heinrich
Representative Ben Ray Luján
Representative Steve Pearce
Representative Cynthia Lummis