



June 6, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Grijalva and Murkowski and Ranking Members Bishop and Manchin:

As the Governors of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, we collectively support the reauthorization of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) and the Platte River Recovery Implementation Authorization bill (S.990).

Our states have worked together for more than a decade through the Program, a partnership that provides benefits for four threatened and endangered species in the Central Platte River Basin while allowing existing water use to continue and new upstream water development to proceed. The Program is a marquee example of a proactive, collaborative approach to providing benefits for endangered species and their habitats while allowing for the beneficial use of our states' waters.

This good work needs to continue, both for the benefit of the species and our economies. That is why we collectively endorse the reauthorization of the Program. This legislation will extend the current work for another 13 years, continuing the restoration and protection of habitat for the whooping crane, least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon. During the first 13 years of the Program, 196 water use projects were approved with streamlined Endangered Species Act compliance consultations, reducing the regulatory burden on water users.

The Program functions as the reasonable and prudent alternative for Endangered Species Act compliance regarding the four target species. The Program provides far reaching benefits for all three states, including providing drinking water for all major water supply projects in Colorado's booming Front Range, major irrigation water supplies in Nebraska, and compliance for operation of four federal reservoirs in Wyoming. The Program is a national model for collaborative solutions to common problems and provides Endangered Species Act compliance for our three states in the Platte River Basin. We hope you will support the reauthorization of this Program.

Thank you,



Mark Gordon  
Governor  
State of Wyoming

Jared Polis  
Governor  
State of Colorado



Pete Ricketts  
Governor  
State of Nebraska

CC Chairman Jared Huffman, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife  
Ranking Member Tom McClintock, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife  
Chair Martha McSally, Subcommittee on Water and Power  
Ranking Member Catherine Cortez Masto, Subcommittee on Water and Power