

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2022

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

We write to request funding for the Bureau of Reclamation in fiscal year 2023 (FY23) to continue the on-schedule planning and construction of Colorado's Arkansas Valley Conduit project (the Conduit). Accordingly, we request continued investment in this project, in line with the \$10.059 million provided in the President's FY23 Budget.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit is a planned 130-mile water-delivery system from the Pueblo Dam to communities throughout the Arkansas River Valley in Southeast Colorado. The Conduit is the final phase of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which Congress authorized in 1962. Upon completion, it will help bring clean drinking water to more than 50,000 people in over 40 communities in this rural, underserved region of our state.

Stakeholders have worked to finish the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project since Congress first authorized it. Annual funding, like the \$10.059 million included in our request for FY23, is an opportunity to shorten the construction timeline for the Conduit and allows federal drinking water standards to be met more quickly providing Coloradans with a secure and safe supply of water.

We join the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the State of Colorado, and the numerous local water providers in support of the Administration's FY23 Budget Request for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. These funds would allow stakeholders to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation to perform and maintain on-time delivery of pre-construction activity including updating environmental documents, design activity, contract negotiation, land acquisition, and right of way work.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator