

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2024

Senator Patty Murray
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 Murray and Ranking Member Kennedy:

We write to request funding for the Bureau of Reclamation in fiscal year (FY) 2025 to continue planning and construction for Colorado's Arkansas Valley Conduit project. The Conduit project is a priority for Colorado, and we request \$13 million, in line with the President's Budget Request, to continue investment and move closer to finalizing this crucial clean drinking water project.

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. When completed, the Conduit will help bring clean drinking water to more than 50,000 people in 39 communities in the lower Arkansas Valley of Colorado who currently rely on naturally contaminated groundwater, which typically does not meet Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Colorado water providers have worked to finish the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project since Congress first authorized it. Annual funding, in line with our \$13 million funding request for FY25, will help shorten the Conduit's construction timeline and expand Coloradans' access to a secure and safe supply of water.

We join the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the State of Colorado, and the many local water providers in support of \$13 million for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. These funds will allow Coloradans to maintain on-time construction, delivery of pre-construction activities, including updating environmental documents, design activity, contract negotiation, land acquisition, and right of way work.

Additionally, we request a strong overall FY25 funding level for the Bureau of Reclamation. While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided substantial and necessary funding for Western water infrastructure, the needs in our region will remain significant for years to come as these one-time historic funds come to an end.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael F. Bennet in blue ink, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of John Hickenlooper in blue ink, written over a black horizontal line.

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator