

July 25, 2007

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DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

The Honorable Tim Johnson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water and Power  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water and Power  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

RE: Support for H.R. 1025, Republican River Study

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Corker:

On behalf of the Governor's Sub-Cabinet on Natural Resources for the State of Kansas, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1025. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas.

During December 2002, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado settled their litigation in the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the enforcement of the Republican River Compact, which the Court affirmed during October 2003. The settlement included a commitment by the States and federal government to pursue system improvements in the basin, including measures that would improve the ability to allow periodic excess waters to be made available for later use to supplement existing irrigation supplies in Kansas and Nebraska.

Thus authorizing the study is the first step toward fulfilling an important provision of the Republican River Compact Settlement. H.R. 1025 is supported by all three Compact states, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas.

Your support of this study will provide an important tool for the three Compact states to use as they collectively manage this important, interstate water resource.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



David Barfield, P.E.  
Acting Chief Engineer  
Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources

pc: Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Ann Bleed, Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
Ken Knox, Acting State Engineer, Colorado Department of Water Resources

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

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