



STATE OF NEBRASKA

Dave Heineman
Governor

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Michael L. Connor, Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Connor:

I am very concerned by recent actions of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office, related to testimony offered by that office in June 2010 at two public hearings on Nebraska's proposed integrated water management plans in the Republican River Basin. These plans are critical to Nebraska's successful implementation of the Republican River Compact and the Final Settlement Stipulation with the State of Colorado and the State of Kansas.

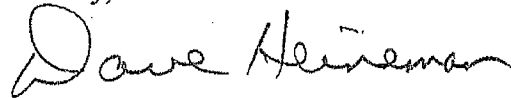
It is my understanding that the testifying Reclamation official, Aaron Thompson (Nebraska-Kansas Area Office Manager), did not fully understand technical details underlying the plans and was confused about how the plans would be implemented. Nevertheless, Mr. Thompson purported to present the Bureau of Reclamation's official conclusion that the plans were inadequate. To reach such a conclusion without all the facts casts doubt on the credibility of previous testimony offered by the Bureau on integrated management plans in the basin along with the testimony presented by your agency, as a witness for the State of Kansas, during the 2009 Republican River Compact Administration's non-binding arbitration.

I recognize that, as a large water right holder in the basin, the Bureau of Reclamation has an important stake in Nebraska's water management planning process. However, any comments provided by the Bureau on Nebraska's water management planning should be based on sound science with a complete understanding of the relevant facts. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the local natural resources districts have put a great deal of time and effort into developing the proposed integrated management plans to ensure they are founded in sound science and will keep Nebraska in compliance with the Republican River Compact.

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The State of Nebraska wants to work cooperatively with the Bureau on issues affecting all water users within our state. The Nebraska-Kansas Area Office's actions undermine that cooperative spirit. I hope that you will take immediate action to correct the previously offered testimony and to further your agency's understanding of the integrated management plans currently at issue in the Republican River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Heineman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Dave Heineman
Governor