



Mark Parkinson, Governor

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November 12, 2010

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

Dear Commissioner Connor:

It has come to my attention that the Governor of the State of Nebraska sent you a letter dated October 14, 2010 expressing his concerns related to testimony offered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office at two public hearings in June, 2010 regarding Nebraska's proposed integrated water management plans in the Republican River Basin. While I generally agree with Governor Heineman that comments should be based on sound science and an understanding of the facts, it is also my opinion that the testimony at issue is correct in recognizing that the need exists to better protect Reclamation projects in the Republican River Basin from unchecked or poorly controlled groundwater pumping in Nebraska.

The State of Kansas depends on the proper functioning of the federal water projects in the Basin to receive waters allocated to Kansas under the Republican River Compact. Kansas water officials contend that Nebraska's proposal to allow groundwater use to continue at current levels will not result in compact compliance and will pose a threat to the viability of federal projects in the Basin. In their view, input offered to date by regional Reclamation officials regarding proposed integrated management plans has been measured, carefully expressed and based on a sound technical understanding of the subjects addressed.

It is our hope that Governor Heineman's letter will not deter Reclamation from protecting its facilities and programs in the Republican River Basin. The State of Kansas stands ready to assist Reclamation in this very necessary endeavor, as appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Parkinson".

Mark Parkinson,  
Governor

cc: Dave Heineman, Governor of Nebraska  
Kansas Congressional Delegation  
Mike Ryan, Regional Director, Great Plains Region  
Aaron Thompson, Manager, USBR, Nebraska-Kansas Office  
David Barfield, Kansas Chief Engineer