



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NOV 16 2010

96-42050  
ADM-1.10

Honorable Dave Heineman  
Governor of Nebraska  
PO Box 94848  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Dear Governor Heineman:

Thank you for your letter of October 14, 2010, describing your reaction to the Bureau of Reclamation's testimony with respect to proposed Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) for the Upper Republican and Middle Republican Natural Resource Districts. I assure you that Reclamation takes its responsibility seriously when providing meaningful testimony on all matters concerning interstate river compacts.

In this instance, Reclamation developed its testimony after thoughtful consideration of information provided by State and Natural Resource District (NRD) Officials. On several occasions, both prior to and since providing the referenced testimony, we have raised questions regarding IMP content and implementation. Although State Officials have been generous with their time in meeting with us, we have serious concerns about the ability of the IMPs to provide a sustainable water supply for both surface and groundwater use, to meet Republican River Compact compliance, and provide equity among all water users. We are also concerned about how the implementation of these IMPs may impact water rights for the Federal interest in Nebraska and Kansas. Finally, we are aware that we are not the only entity within the Republican River Basin to have these concerns.

Reclamation is anxious to work with Nebraska and others to resolve issues associated with Republican River Compact compliance. Mr. Aaron Thompson is Reclamation's Nebraska-Kansas Area Manager and serves as our local representative for this topic. The Nebraska-Kansas Area Office is within Reclamation's Great Plains Region. The Great Plains Regional Director is Mr. Michael Ryan. As Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ryan are well-informed on this topic, I urge you and others to work closely with them to address this matter. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ryan can be reached at (308) 389-5300 and (406) 247-7600 respectively.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Connor  
Commissioner