



**PIKES PEAK**  
REGIONAL WATER  
AUTHORITY

Representative Jack Pommer  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

January 29, 2010

RE: HB10-1051

Dear Representative Pommer,

The board of directors of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority has reviewed HB10-1051 in depth and has voted unanimously to oppose its enactment.

While the bill may have a meritorious intent, the board concluded that it would require the members to commit and expend resources which would otherwise be used for better purposes for the benefit of their taxpayers and ratepayers. Among the major deficiencies of the bill is a complete lack of purpose for the collection of the data and how that information would be used once it was sent to the CWCB. The board did not see any provisions related to the analysis of the data by the CWCB or any other entity. It appears that once the data is collected and submitted to the CWCB, there is no further use for it. The members cannot justify to their taxpayers and ratepayers expending scarce resources for the collection of data that will apparently never be used for any purpose or by any party.

In the ongoing economic downturn, the members must be very careful stewards of the resources made available to them through local taxes and customer payments. Those resources are best used by the members for the improvement and operation of the systems that their customers and taxpayers rely on. All water and wastewater entities are facing increasing costs resulting from state and federal mandates for improved water quality, watershed protection and other requirements that are much higher priorities than the collection and submission of raw data for no apparent benefit or purpose.

Moreover, the members did not see any direct benefit to having the data accumulated since it is unlikely that the data would prove to be of any use to their systems and operations. Each of our members has developed, or is developing, a water conservation program that is integrated into the entire management operation of their systems. The members are continually refining their conservation programs as new and better information becomes available. Each of the members has a cadre of competent professional staff and outside consultants that participate in such refinements and the members share information with each other. However, none of the members could conceive of a benefit that the information to be gathered and archived at the CWCB would be to their research needs.

The members further noted that nothing in the bill addresses or amplifies the work being done by the basin roundtables. The roundtables were established in accordance with the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act which created a framework that provides a permanent forum for broad-based water discussions. The Act created two new structures which were designed to take advantage of a wide range of key stakeholders with knowledge and expertise in water resource planning and management. The two entities are The Interbasin Compact Committee

(IBCC), a state-wide committee that is tasked to address issues between basins and the Basin Roundtables which are specifically focused on the major river basins in Colorado.

Separate roundtables were established for each of the state's major river basins, and a "Metro Roundtable" for the Denver metropolitan area was established to address the extremely complex multi-jurisdictional issues that are inherent to the Front Range metro area. These Roundtables facilitate discussions on water issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions which include conservation strategies. The broad-based, collaborative nature of this process is reflected in the roundtable membership. The Roundtables have been working diligently to complete the work assigned to them by the General Assembly under the Act, and the PPRWA board believes that matters which relate to the research into the future water supply needs and uses for Colorado should be framed to take advantage of this highly developed and ongoing process rather than circumventing it.

The roundtables are well into their analyses of future water supply needs and the bill does not further those efforts. Perhaps rather than mandating purposeless data collection on the water supply entities, the General Assembly should provide increased resource support to the roundtables so that they can complete their charge of responsibility more quickly. The members of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority request that you withdraw HB10-1051 from consideration this session.

If we can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Kip Petersen  
President

cc: El Paso County Senators and Representatives