

policy, as it prohibits forced transfers of water rights “directly to the United States.” The Water Rights Protection Act is essential because it would codify the assumption that water will no longer be taken by the federal government without compensation, and thus provides a permanent foundation for Forest Service water policy going forward.

We urge the Committee to move forward with the mark up and passage of H.R. 3189. We look forward to continued dialogue with all stakeholders as the agency develops a new policy to address water resources for the future.

Best Regards,

MICHAEL BERRY,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,
October 21, 2013.

Re The Water Rights Protection Act—H.R. 3189

Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO,
Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Chairman McCLINTOCK and Ranking Member NAPOLITANO,
Subcommittee on Water and Power, U.S. House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, RANKING MEMBER DEFAZIO, CHAIRMAN McCLINTOCK AND RANKING MEMBER NAPOLITANO: The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) supports the bipartisan H.R. 3189, the Water Rights Protection Act. NACD represents America’s 3,000 locally led conservation districts working with millions of co-operating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands in the United States. Established under state law, conservation districts share a single mission: to work cooperatively with federal, state and other local resource management agencies and private sector interests to provide technical, financial, and other assistance to help landowners and operators apply conservation to the landscape.

NACD understands that water is a vital natural resource that needs to be protected. This bill would prevent federal agencies from requiring public- lands users to turn over water rights as a condition of issuing or renewing permits. Not only is compelling individuals to relinquish water rights for permits unfair to those who have paid to use their water permits, the required waiver of water rights to the federal government overlooks state laws concerning water rights transfer and ownership as well as Constitutional takings issues.

Stakeholders ranging from individual ranchers and farmers to municipalities rely on private water rights to provide drinking water, provide agricultural water, run their operations, and secure loans. The loss of these water rights would take away their ability to address local water concerns and plan ahead to meet their specific long-term water needs. H.R. 3189 would secure water rights for those that have paid for them and provide stakeholders the stability they need to appropriately plan for and manage natural resources at the local level.

Thank you for your consideration of these important water resource issues as they pertain to H.R. 3189.

Sincerely,

EARL J. GARBER.

MONTROSE COUNTY COLORADO,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
Montrose, CO, October 10, 2013.
Congressman SCOTT TIPTON,
*N. 5th St., Suite 702,
Grand Junction, CO.*

DEAR MR. TIPTON: On behalf of the people of Montrose County, Colorado, we are hereby expressing our earnest support for H.R. 3189 aka the “Water Rights Protection Act”. This is a timely and necessary piece of legislation.

Water is an essential property right for business operators ranging from agriculture to ski areas. No operator or property owner should be coerced into surrendering a privately held water right. The opportunity for beneficial use of public lands is a separate right. Federal agencies are charged only with administering permitting and other processes related to public lands. These agencies should have no authority to use these processes as a mechanism to strip rights from lawful water users.

It is noteworthy that even in the midst of the ongoing government shutdown, this bill is coming forward with bipartisan support. This underscores the importance and common sense of H.R. 3189. This bill represents no cost to the public and provides needed protection of lawfully held water rights.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 3189 and we are happy to provide further support for this effort as necessary.

Sincerely,

RON HENDERSON,
Chairman.
DAVID WHITE,
Vice-Chairman.
GARY ELLIS,
Commissioner.

IN HONOR OF MARALIN MANNING
OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Maralin Manning of Quincy, Massachusetts, in recognition of her decades of dedicated service to her community.

The daughter of the late Gertrude Mandros and the late Theodore Mandros, Maralin is a graduate of St. Mary’s, Notre Dame High School and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Massachusetts College of Art. Maralin is also a graduate of the Executive Training Program at Jordan Marsh, Co.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime resident of Quincy, Maralin Manning has been involved with countless business associations and community organizations. She was the director of the Quincy Business Association for twenty-two years before it merged with the Quincy Chamber of Commerce serving as the Chamber’s business development director. Maralin has actively served a number of community organizations including the Board of Directors for the Maria Droste Services, Quincy After School Program, Kiwanis Club of Quincy, Quincy Salvation Army, Impact Quincy, and the Advisory Board of the Quincy High School Career and Technical Training.

Continuing with her commitment to the Quincy community, Maralin has also served with the American Red Cross, Quincy Historic Commission, Quincy Downtown Development Citizens Advisory, Quincy Medical Center Curry Cancer Walk and the Mayor’s Boy

Scout Breakfast, and is a past trustee of the Quincy Historical Society and former board member of the Souther Tide Mill and the USS Salem.

Previously, Maralin was an adjunct instructor at Mount Ida College, served as the director of the Chamberlain School of Retailing and fashion director for Jordan Marsh, Co. She is also an independent lecturer in fashion, color and advertising, and corporate branding.

Prior to living in Quincy, Maralin was an active resident of Milton, Massachusetts, serving as a member of a number of town organizations including the Milton Public Schools PTOs, the Milton Town Republican Committee, and the high school rebuilding committees.

Mr. Speaker, Maralin and her husband Robert are the parents of six children: Patrice Manning Flavin, Moira Manning Shigo, Robert Manning, Gregory Manning, Theodore Manning and Michael Manning. They are also blessed with 17 grandchildren.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with Maralin’s family, friends, her community and the City of Quincy to thank her for her lifetime commitment of dedicated public service. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Maralin Manning.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3189

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT,
Crested Butte, CO, March 21, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TIPTON, I am writing on behalf of Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) in support of H.R. 3189, the “Water Rights Protection Act.” CBMR currently operates on U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit on over 4,300 acres in Gunnison County and generates over \$28 million dollars into the local economy from destination skiers in lodging, dining, entertainment and retail purchases.

CBMR supports H.R. 3189 because it would prohibit the U.S. Forest Service from requiring our resort to transfer valuable water rights to the Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit, or to apply for water rights in the name of the United States, without compensation. This bill would also prevent the federal government from making an end run around state law by merely taking water rights that it does not own through its permitting authority. It would not only protect ski area water rights—it would protect any water rights owners that operate on federal land.

Furthermore, requiring transfer of valuable water rights to the U.S. Forest Service as a condition of receiving a permit raises serious Fifth Amendment concerns. Most Colorado resorts’ water rights were acquired and developed at great expense pursuant to Colorado law, and in some cases pre-date the Forest Service itself. If the U.S. Forest Service wants to secure its own water rights, it should buy them on Colorado’s well-regulated water market like everyone else.

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on H.R. 3189 and for your leadership on this issue. It means a great deal to CBMR and