



**WESTERN RESOURCE  
ADVOCATES**

**Testimony in Support of HB 09-1017**

Before the Colorado Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
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I testify today in support of House Bill 09-1017, which will authorize the Colorado Water Conservation Board to spend previously appropriated water efficiency grant money that has rolled over from prior years. I also wish to convey support for HB 1017 from other conservation groups, including the Colorado Environmental Coalition, which has over 100 partner groups and 4,500 individual members.

This grant money aids Colorado communities, water providers, and eligible entities in the planning and implementation of water conservation activities. As Western Resource Advocate's water policy analyst, I work closely with the beneficiaries of this grant money to find the most sustainable ways for each community to meet their water needs.

Effective implementation of water conservation is vital to meeting our future water demands. However, planning and implementation of conservation often takes more time and financial resources than many smaller utilities are capable of providing. The continuation of grant funding will allow these communities to plan for their best possible future.

Conservation is often the cheapest and fastest way to generate 'new supply' for communities; and conservation remains under local control. The inherent flexibility of conservation is superior to hard-infrastructure projects that may be subject to interstate compact issues or dependent upon diminished water supply in the face in climate change.

CWCB has dispersed funds from the grant program for worthwhile conservation efforts throughout the state of Colorado. For example, the Tri-County Water Conservancy District in Montrose and the Fort Collins-Loveland Water District have both used grant funding to prepare water conservation plans for their communities. The Town of Castle

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Rock used funds to replace water-loving bluegrass with artificial turf on some playing fields, and Ft. Lupton has used funds to initiate a water loss identification program.

Currently, CWCB has a backlog of twelve qualified grants that cannot be funded until the passage of this bill.<sup>1</sup> These waiting grants will support new water efficiency projects, further needed education, and improve conservation planning. This bill has no fiscal impact and no new appropriations.

I strongly encourage your favorable recommendation on H.B. 09-1017.

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<sup>1</sup> Personal communication with Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi, CWCB Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning. April 21, 2009.