



SOLAR ENERGY INTERNATIONAL

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April 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express our support of HB 15-364 and urge the retention of the draft bill language as approved by an impressive group of stakeholders including Tri-State, Excel, CREA, DMEA, DORA, CEO, CDA and other hydro proponents.

The draft language is consistent with the intent of the small hydro legislation that was passed in 2014. HB 14-1030 took a major step forward in removing unnecessary red-tape for the installation of small hydro systems. HB 15-364 continues in the right direction while ensuring the safety of users and technicians and protecting the integrity of the grid.

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Solar Energy International's (SEI) mission is to provide industry-leading technical training and expertise in renewable energy to empower people, communities and businesses worldwide. SEI has trained over 40,000 alumni in how to design, install and maintain renewable energy systems. Each year, we train people (many from Colorado) in small hydro. In fact, in February and March, we taught 70 NRCS staff about small hydro, with an emphasis on agricultural production, through a Colorado Energy Office grant.

SEI is based in Western Colorado. The potential for small hydro in Delta County alone is well documented. Small hydro is an opportunity for our farmers and ranchers to offset their energy usage through onsite energy production. This bill, if enacted, will permit the development of the substantial small hydro potential in Colorado. Most importantly, it continues to remove the unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles that prevent our agricultural producers from utilizing the resources that they own. We owe it to them to enact this very sensible legislation.

On behalf of all of us at Solar Energy International, we thank Representative Mitsch Bush for her leadership and urge all involved to pass this bill that will greatly benefit our ranchers and farmers.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Swartz
Executive Director