



HB 1017

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**WESTERN RESOURCE
ADVOCATES**

Attachment I

January 15, 2009

SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1017

Dear Members of the Colorado Legislature:

WRA strongly supports HB 1017, a bill entitled—"Water Efficiency Grant Program Fund Amendment; Providing Authority to Spend Appropriated Money."

HB 1017's common-sense and beneficial goal is to allow the Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") to spend funds for the Water Efficiency Grant Program that rolled-over from previous years. Original authorizing legislation for the Grant Program expressly stated funds would roll-over, but it apparently lacked the technical language to enable the spending of those funds. HB 1017 would fix this technical oversight. It would not cause any new fiscal impact in 2009.

The Water Efficiency Grant Program is making tremendous headway helping improve water conservation through funding implementation of conservation programs by water providers all across the state. Increased water conservation—the laudable goal of CWCB, water providers, and millions of Colorado citizens—is an inexpensive way to minimize the growth in municipal water demands, and avoids the controversy and delay of large new water supply projects. Equally important, it protects Colorado's streams, fish, wildlife, and local communities.

Western Resource Advocates has worked with water providers for many years to improve conservation. Water providers' attitudes and experience have changed dramatically during this time, such that funding is one of the final hurdles to more and better conservation programs. HB 1017 removes that hurdle by freeing up funds—already allocated in past years—to further cities' conservation goals.

Please cast your votes in favor of HB 1017.

Sincerely,

Bart Miller
Water Program Director