

We respectfully ask for your yes vote on HB 1166

Concerning the Creation of a Tributary Groundwater Monitoring Network
Presented by Rep Saine and Rep. Arndt

BACKGROUND:

At the September 4th meeting of the South Platte Basin Roundtable, roundtable members selected a technical committee to investigate the recommendations presented for consideration in HB1278 report and develop specific direction. The technical committee completed its investigation of the report's 3.B recommendation for the implementation of the groundwater monitoring network and gave a summary of recommendations to the Roundtable on November 18, 2014.

HB1166 is designed to implement and adhere tightly to the recommendations of the South Platte Basin's technical committee as understood and voted upon in the affirmative by the South Platte Basin Roundtable.

PURPOSE:

The chief purpose of the monitoring network will be to provide accurate groundwater level data to be used in scientific investigations, analysis, and decision making with regards to water planning while increasing the public's access and understanding of data regarding the movement of tributary groundwater in the South Platte Alluvial Aquifer.

Last year, legislators voted unanimously in both chambers to find sustainable yields of alluvial aquifers as specified in HJR 1018 and HB1166 is an important step towards realizing more data-driven, scientific management of the South Platte while protecting the value of a water right by providing even more certainty that it can be exercised within the priority system while protecting senior property rights.

Thank you for your consideration!