



*PROVO RIVER
WATER USERS
ASSOCIATION*

December 11, 2007

Congressman Jim Matheson
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Rob Bishop
124 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Chris Cannon
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Provo River Water Users Association's Opposition to H.R. 2421

Dear Representatives Bishop, Cannon, and Matheson:

Provo River Water Users Association (Association) has serious concerns about the "Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007," H.R. 2421, as introduced by Congressman James Oberstar. This legislation would vastly expand the definition of "waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act, and represents a very serious interference with the rights and abilities of western states to administer water rights. This legislation will be the subject of an upcoming hearing in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

As you know, the Association is a Utah non-profit corporation, whose shareholders include cities, metropolitan water districts, conservation districts and irrigation companies in north-central Utah. By contract with the United States, the Association is responsible for operating, maintaining and repaying the costs of construction of the Deer Creek Division of the Provo River Project (PRP), a United States Bureau of Reclamation Project. The major features of the PRP are the Deer Creek Dam and Reservoir, a 152,000 acre-foot capacity storage reservoir at the head of Provo Canyon near Heber City, Utah. The PRP diverts, stores, and distributes water to its shareholders through rights on the Provo River. In addition, the PRP relies on trans-basin water diversions into the Provo River from (i) the Duchesne River, through the Duchesne Tunnel, a PRP facility located above Kamas, Utah, and (ii) the Weber River, through the Weber-Provo Canal, a PRP facility which begins near Oakley, Utah. The PRP also diverts water through the Provo Reservoir Canal Diversion and Provo Reservoir Canal from the mouth of Provo Canyon to the Jordan River near the Jordan Narrows. Approximately one million Utahns in north Utah County and Salt Lake County depend upon the Association and the PRP for at least a part of their water supply.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4402

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January 15, 2008

Mr. G. Keith Denos
285 West 1100 North
Pleasant Grove, UT 84062-1629

JAN 22 2008

Dear Mr. Denos,

Thank you for your comments concerning clean water bills currently being debated in Congress. I appreciate your interest in the issues facing our country and our state, and I am glad for the opportunity to respond to your inquiry.

Several bills addressing water issues have been introduced in Congress this year that you might find of interest.

When the Water Quality Financing Act, HR 720, was voted on by the full House this spring, I supported it, and it passed 303-108. I have always supported continued efforts to provide safe and clean water. As a member of the Board of Governors for America's Clean Water Foundation, I have worked with my House colleagues to improve our nation's health, environment, economy, and quality of life through responsible clean water initiatives.

On August 1st, the Water Resources Development Act (HR 1495) conference report passed the House of Representatives with my support. Included in this bill was more than \$10 million in legislation for critical water projects in Grand, Washington, Iron, Duchesne, and Uintah counties. The long-running drought, combined with outmoded water systems, is straining the counties' ability to provide clean, reliable water to their communities. This funding will help them make long-awaited improvements to water delivery in order to protect human health and the environment.

Additionally, the Clean Water Restoration Act, HR 2421, and the Clean Water Restoration Act, HR 2169, have been introduced. However, these bills have not yet been voted on by the House of Representatives. I will keep you apprised of the status of these bills, and I will continue to work in support of the Clean Water Act.

Recently, I sent a letter to President Bush urging him not to pursue any policy or regulatory change that would reduce the scope of the waters protected under the Clean Water Act. Over the last 30 years, the United States has made great progress toward meeting the Clean Water Act's goal to restore and maintain the integrity of our nation's waters. I would like to see this progress continue.

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