



Re: HB-1043, Study Underground Water Storage Maximum Beneficial Use

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today, unfortunately scheduling didn't allow me to connect with you today but I offer the following written testimony.

I would like to start by acknowledging that we agree that further study of underwater storage opportunities is a worthy endeavor and may help in addressing the water needs of agriculture and our state at-large. With the myriad water challenges Colorado faces we should explore all options that increase the resilience of our water systems.

I would like to limit the scope of my testimony today to the amendment that was offered in the House Agriculture committee which would direct a portion of the Proposition DD revenues, those accruing from sports betting tax revenues in the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund to this project.

EDFAction was intimately involved in the creation and passage of proposition DD and we are happy to see that the account is generating a good amount of money for water plan implementation. EDFAction, in partnership with other water, agriculture, and municipal interests across the state gave great consideration to the granting structure, and expertise built around DD revenues. We sought to develop a grant program that would afford the wide variety of water projects the opportunity to be the recipient of DD revenues through that program, in a way that strategically implements Colorado's water plan.

While we believe that projects like this one would be fairly funded under the water plan implementation grant program, we do not support legislatively redirecting a portion of DD revenues to particular projects outside of the scope of the grant program itself.

We respectfully request that the grant program associated with DD be given an opportunity to prove its value, and that future funding for water projects be appropriately distributed through that grant program itself. We request that DD revenues be eliminated from this bill and that the integrity of the DD grant programs be protected.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Brian Jackson
Senior Manager