

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

03/30/2026

HB26-1338 2026 Water Projects Bill

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Amber Pacheco For Rio Grande Water Conservation District</p>	<p>Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Amber Pacheco, and I am speaking on behalf of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, which serves the communities and water users of the San Luis Valley.</p> <p>I am here to express strong support for HB26’s 1338, the 2026 Water Projects Bill. This legislation directly supports the tools, data, and funding mechanisms our district relies on to meet the requirements of the Division No. 3 Groundwater Rules, protect Colorado’s obligations under the Rio Grande Compact, and sustain the agricultural economy of the Valley.</p> <p>Accurate snowpack monitoring and improved forecasting are essential for water management in our basin. These systems guide everything from annual replacement plan planning to day-to-day operational decisions that ensure we remain in compliance while protecting local producers. Continued investment in these statewide tools is critical for a headwaters basin where even small forecasting errors can have major consequences.</p> <p>Access to funding through the Water Plan Grants program is equally important. These grants allow us to deepen our understanding of the basin, improve hydrologic modeling, and support projects that advance long-term sustainability in a changing climate. For a region facing declining aquifers, variable snowpack, and increasing pressure on water supplies, these resources are not optional they are critical.</p> <p>On behalf of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB26’s 1338 and continue supporting the long-term sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin.</p>

	Thank you for your time.
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