



March 21, 2016

Kimberly D. Bose  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426  
Docket Number: P-2035-099

Dear Secretary Bose,

On behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Competitive Council (C3) we are writing to encourage the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to approve Denver Water's License Amendment Application for the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project that will create additional clean, renewable energy to help power the growing population and businesses of our state. We urge the Commission to take the next step in the permitting process for the project, which has been more than 14 years in the making.

The Denver Metro Chamber is Colorado's leading business advocacy organization representing 3000 employers and over 300,000 workers in Colorado. C3 is the state-wide advocacy affiliate of the Denver Metro Chamber. In this role, C3 has served as a leader in promoting a stable business environment for key industries across Colorado.

Water plays a vital role in sustaining and growing Colorado's economy. It is a precious resource and we are critically aware of the role a reliable and available source of water plays in the success of many of our businesses; from recreation, to agriculture, to manufacturing, to our growing craft beer industry. Water clearly directly impacts our tourism and recreation industries, but also enables our diverse set of businesses to thrive. If we don't have a sufficient, secure, and reliable supply, it threatens our economy.

We are taking steps to increase conservation and have completed a statewide water plan, as we recognize water as an important input resource. We know Colorado has limited supplies and growing demands on that resource. A vital part of planning to ensure we can meet water demands in Colorado includes working with Denver Water as an important supplier, which includes the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project.

In addition, Denver Water's supply system is imbalanced, with 90 percent of its water coming from the southern part of its system. That puts the entire system at risk in the event of a drought or natural disaster, but particularly the northern part of the system that gets its water from the Fraser River and northern storage facilities. The Gross Reservoir Expansion will produce increase the storage by 77,000 acre-feet.

Not only will this project enhance Denver Water's supply to provide safe, clean, and reliable water to its customer, with the approval of Denver Water's application it will allow for approximately 5,000 KWh

more clean hydroelectric power once the expansion is completed. This is all done while keeping environmental concerns at the forefront. We are confident that the evaluation performed as part of the Environmental Impact Study has resulted in a better final product which our state's findings that with prescribed mitigation and enhancements in place, the expansion of Gross Reservoir will result in a "net environmental benefit," which is a win for everyone.

Denver Water identified the need for this project more than a dozen years ago. Since then, our state has faced two historic droughts and still this project has not been given the green light to proceed. The need for the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project has been amply demonstrated, and its environmental impacts thoroughly studied and mitigated, even providing a net benefit. We urge FERC to proceed with the necessary approvals to amend Denver Water's existing hydropower license, the next step to enable this critical project to move forward.

Best Regards,



Kelly Brough  
President and CEO  
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce



Nicholas J. Colglazier  
Director  
Colorado Competitive Council

CC:

U.S. Senator Michael Bennett  
U.S. Senator Cory Gardner  
Congressman Ken Buck  
Congressman Mike Coffman  
Congresswoman Diana DeGette  
Congressman Doug Lamborn  
Congressman Ed Perlmutter  
Congressman Jared Polis  
Congressman Scott Tipton