



March 22, 2017

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Docket P-2035-099

Dear Secretary Bose:

The South Metro Denver Chamber is 92 years in the making, and serves as the catalyst for business growth and success in the south metro Denver region through action-oriented initiatives, including economic development, public policy, and business engagement. We are active in four counties, eighteen cities, and have over 650 business investors.

We support the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval of Denver Water's License Amendment Application that will allow creation of additional clean, renewable energy to help power the people and industry of our state. Currently, Denver Water produces 25,000 KWh of clean hydropower energy annually at Gross Dam – a figure that will grow to 30,000 KWh once proper approvals are in place and the expansion is completed.

Beyond FERC's role in approving the license amendment regulating creation of hydropower, the expansion of Gross Reservoir will supplement a critically needed water supply that will benefit businesses, residents and the environment.

We understand the unique and pivotal role water plays in Colorado's economy. A reliable and resilient supply of water is necessary to maintain the quality of life and for our economy to thrive. Uncertainty of any kind creates challenges for business and the economy. Any action that improves certainty – including improvements to our water and green power infrastructure – will pay dividends now and in the future.

Currently, Denver Water's system is unbalanced, with 90 percent of its storage in the south system and the other 10 percent in the north system, which includes Gross Reservoir. Expanding Gross Reservoir will provide a more balanced water system on which businesses in the Denver metro area will be able to rely and continue to thrive.

Absent the expansion of Gross Reservoir, if a serious drought or interruption of supply from the south end of Denver Water's supply system occurs, communities in the end of the metro area that rely on the Moffat system face the real possibility of running out of water. The Gross Reservoir Expansion Project will bring added storage to the Moffat system adding additional security and reliability to communities

on the northern end of Denver Water's distribution system. Expanding the capacity of Gross Reservoir will help protect us from the worst consequences of a range of possible emergencies – whether they be the effects of climate change, wildfires, floods, or other crises that might impact one or more of Denver Water's critical watersheds.

We urge FERC to proceed with the necessary approvals to amend Denver Water's existing hydropower license; the next step to enable this critical program to move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Golden', is written over the printed name.

Robert E. Golden, CAE, RCE  
President/CEO