

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD PLEDGES TO WORK WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS ON ARKANSAS VALLEY WATER ISSUES COMMITTS TO WORKING WITH WATER COALITION AND SUPPORTS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS REQUIRING MITIGATION ON TRANSFERS

Las Animas, CO – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today during town meetings in Lamar, Springfield and Las Animas pledged to work with local elected officials and citizens in their efforts to save agriculture water in the Arkansas Valley.

“There are a number of things that we can do together to save agriculture water for the Arkansas Valley,” Allard told citizens at his three town meetings in southeastern Colorado on Tuesday. “First of all, I am committed to working with the Arkansas Valley coalition of local governments and citizens who are currently studying ways to protect the supply of Arkansas River water used by farmers. I have assigned my southeastern Colorado director to attend all meetings and report directly to me on ways I can be of assistance to their efforts.

“Secondly, I will be supporting legislative efforts by Colorado State Senator Mark Hillman during this session of the Colorado General Assembly to require mitigation for the removal of water from any Colorado basin,” added Allard. “Finally, I will be seeking federal support for the Arkansas Valley Conduit, which was authorized by Congress in 1962. The pipeline will allow the citizens of the Arkansas Valley to enjoy the full benefits of the Fry-Ark project.”

Allard, who in 1999 and 2000 worked with citizens and elected officials in the San Luis Valley to designate the Great Sand Dunes National Park to protect water beneath the dunes, said the lessons of that effort can be applied to the Arkansas Valley.

“On the Great Sand Dunes National Park effort we learned working together we were able to preserve the water in the San Luis Valley,” said Allard. “I believe by supporting local efforts to preserve water in the Lower Arkansas Valley water basin, we will be successful in preserving the agricultural heritage of the Arkansas Valley.”

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