

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD OPPOSES REID WATER AMENDMENT TO FARM BILL SAYS REID AMENDMENT WOULD “DEVASTATE” COLORADO

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today said he will strongly oppose an amendment to the Farm Bill which he says if approved could end up “devastating” Colorado and other western states. The Reid Amendment, which is being pushed by U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), could require farmers and landowners to give up their water rights to the federal government when they sign up for participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

“This amendment would devastate Colorado and other western states,” said Allard. “The aim of this amendment is to “dewater” states like Colorado who rely on interstate compacts and state water laws to allocate a scarce commodity - water.”

Allard’s opposition to the Reid amendment is supported by Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Don Ament, Colorado Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Greg Walcher and the Colorado Farm Bureau.

“The Colorado Farm Bureau applauds and fully supports Senator Allard’s opposition to the Reid Amendment,” said Alan Foutz, President of the Colorado Farm Bureau. “This amendment would be disastrous to Colorado farmers.”

“The U.S. Supreme Court has clearly given the states sovereignty in the matter of water adjudication,” added Allard. “This ‘ill-founded’ amendment attempts to give the federal government a new water right that it’s simply not entitled to, nor should be granted by Congress.”

The Senate is expected to take up the Farm Bill within the next week. Allard said he will try to remove the amendment from the bill on the Senate floor.

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