

PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas Valley Conduit Proposed In Congress
Allard and Musgrave introduce legislation to support project

Washington, DC: Today, U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) introduced legislation in Congress to expedite construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit in Southeastern Colorado. This pipeline will carry water to the small communities throughout the region in a clean, protected, and affordable manner.

"Years ago, a historian and poet once penned that the history of Colorado would be written in water," said Allard. "Today, in the midst of the worst drought in 300 years, and with the costs of unfunded federal water mandates mounting, this legislation will close a chapter of Colorado history that began with a Congressional promise forty years ago." Allard continued, "I look forward to working with Congresswoman Musgrave to complete the Arkansas Valley Conduit."

"The plains communities have been long awaiting the resources provided by the proposed conduit," said Musgrave. "Once construction is complete, farmers, ranchers and residents will have quality water readily available because the pipeline provides access through a much cleaner and more affordable system than currently in place."

Originally authorized with the enactment of the Frying Pan-Arkansas Project in 1962, the project lacked a cost share formula that would fit the tight finances of Southeastern Colorado. However, this legislation provides an equitable formula, which authorizes federal funds to cover 75 percent of the construction costs. Beginning at the Pueblo Reservoir, the conduit will run a path east toward Lamar and deliver water to communities in the region.

Allard introduced this bill in the U.S. Senate. Musgrave introduced similar, companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

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