



To the Douglas County Commissioners:  
Regarding: RWR Proposal

I must admit that I am still in a little disbelief that you would consider backing this plan to export water from the San Luis Valley. Without ignoring the obvious, that it will cost an untold amount of money to build a pipeline to Douglas County, and the American Rescue plan was never meant to steal valuable natural resources from one region so that another could prosper. As elected officials in the United States you should strive to demonstrate that you have the intelligence and ability to manage your own resources for your citizens, without the need to take from an already depleted water basin.

The RWR plan to redistribute a scarce water supply to Douglas County from the Rio Grande Basin, via pipeline, is short sighted and a threat to natural resources, and the agricultural economy of the San Luis Valley. Simultaneously, the result of implementing the proposal would have tremendous economic, environmental, and social impacts on San Luis Valley.

The San Luis Valley is a high mountain desert. The reserves of water are being depleted by drought and overuse already. The ecosystem is delicately balanced, supporting wildlife and riparian areas. The nearly twenty year drought has stressed these resources, along with the agricultural economy, the aquifers, and the vast 3.1 million acres of public lands. Millions of citizens across this state and Country come to enjoy places such as The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, the Rio Grande National Forest, the San Luis Valley Wildlife Refuges, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

I urge you to explore more responsible water projects and consider water efficiency solutions such as reclaimed water systems, water recovery programs, and water efficiency requirements that would benefit your community.

Please be pragmatic, represent your constituency and dismiss the RWR proposal. This scheme will not foster a long term solution for Douglas County nor can it benefit the high mountain desert needs of the San Luis Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Smith".

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors  
610 State Ave  
Alamosa CO 81101  
[www.slvgo.com](http://www.slvgo.com)