



February 9, 2022

Douglas County Commissioners
100 Third Street
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

Dear Commissioners:

Like most land trusts, the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) primarily works with landowners on voluntary agreements to conserve their land and water "in perpetuity." Whenever we meet with farming and ranching families, I am sure to have a long conversation about the meaning of "perpetuity." Our programs wouldn't be voluntary if we weren't honest that forever is a very long time.

You are also in the forever business. Supporting Renewable Water Resources's pipeline will cause irreversible damage to the San Luis Valley community and ecosystem. Moving water to the Front Range increases its sale value by over one hundred times. It also reduces the ecological value to nearly zero. Once Renewable Water's pipeline is in place, it will not be moving 22,000-acre feet for long. Tens of thousands of acres of dry-up, already a staggering number, will become hundreds of thousands. Our proud farming and ranching culture will turn into a memory. Populations of birds that have migrated the North American continent for eons will crater as their only suitable wetland habitat is lost. Vulnerable people in towns like Center, La Jara, Antonito, and Monte Vista will be left behind as the farms they work lie fallow.

We understand that Douglas County needs secure water supplies. RiGHT recently worked with the City of Alamosa on a water lease. When its City Manager told me she can't sleep at night without knowing that residents' faucets will run, I believed her and helped out. Douglas County is not in the same situation. You already have adequate water to support your constituents and further growth. The San Luis Valley should not be hollowed out *forever* mostly to enrich a handful of developers and potentially support populations who may someday move to Douglas County.

Thank you for your concern,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Law", written over a light blue background.

Allen Law, Executive Director
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust

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riograndelandtrust.org

CONSERVING
OUR LAND, WATER
AND WAY OF LIFE
IN COLORADO'S
SAN LUIS VALLEY