



City Council
300 Hunt Avenue
Alamosa, CO 81101
Phone (719) 587-7850

February 15, 2022

Douglas County Board of County Commissioners
100 Third Street
Castle Rock CO 80104

Re: RWR Proposal

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the City of Alamosa and Alamosa City Council. We have watched the public discussions surrounding the RWR Proposal with great trepidation and frustration. As fellow elected officials, we assure you that we take our responsibility to listen to the community and represent those views seriously. We also take great pride that when we provide information in an official capacity that information is factual; something we assume you do as well. It is because of these shared values that we would hope that when we provide official communication from the City of Alamosa, it will be taken seriously and with the knowledge that it truly represents our constituents and rests soundly on facts.

We have attended meetings across the San Luis Valley and heard from all imaginable stakeholders and residents the strong opposition to the RWR Proposal. This opposition is not based on inflated fears, misguided "facts," or an oversimplified us-versus-them mentality. It is based on actually living in the San Luis Valley and knowing how incredibly hard it is to maintain our way of life. We already have to legally reduce the water usage in the valley, even without the RWR Proposal. This is a fact. That means our number one economic engine, which is agriculture, already has to decrease and will have implications on other sectors. This is a fact. To further reduce that economic sector with this proposal is truly frightening when you consider the current poverty levels and uphill battle that rural communities face for economic stability.

RWR presents a bright, shiny, one-time payment of \$50 million to claim all is well with what they are doing to our economy. You have heard from individuals that this one-time payment will not offset the shrinkage of the economy that we will experience every year. If you doubt this reality, then we urge you to connect with a qualified economist with no ties to RWR to evaluate these claims and provide a



truly unbiased opinion. Considering the damage we anticipate this proposal to have on our communities, this seems an easy enough request.

We are here to provide any information you may need as you evaluate this proposal and we look forward to meeting you when you travel to the valley. It is our hope that when you see our communities and the sincerity in our eyes, you will realize just how important your vote on this issue is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Michael Carson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Carson
City Council Member, Ward 4