

The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “Eagles Nest Wilderness Area - S. 268” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

June 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
THROUGH: CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. *CL*
FROM: TOM LOEFFLER *TL*
SUBJECT: Former Congressman
James D. "Mike" McKevitt

For your information, Mike asked that I inform you that it was his opinion that the President should not sign S. 268, a bill designating the Eagles Nest Wilderness area within portions of the Arapaho and White River National Forests in Colorado. The bill is presently in conference and Mike fears it will reach the White House prior to the Colorado Republican Convention. According to McKevitt, Presidential action prior to the State Convention could prove detrimental to the President.

Mike indicated his support for the President and stated that no one had contacted him with respect to the delegate selection in Colorado. He asked that you be given the attached.

Attach.



We Ask This Question of Colorado's Congressional Delegation: "Why do you want to saddle us with a \$680 million bill?"

To Colorado's Congressional Delegation:

In mid-May we said your actions would cost every water user in Denver and its surrounding Metro Area \$500 million over a 40-year period.

Our estimate was low — much too low.

A recently-completed independent engineering study (done by the engineering planning firm of Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., of Denver) shows that the actual bill will be \$680 million!

And this is only the beginning.

Because who knows how much higher this \$680 million will climb out of sight under the unrelenting pressures of inflation over the course of years?

And who will be stuck with this \$680 million pay-out?

The answer comes fast — practically all of us, including our children and their children.

We have sent you the results of our study. But so

far, we haven't had a response from you people in Washington.

We think we're entitled to the courtesy of an answer.

Isn't that what representative government is supposed to be all about?

Sincerely,

The Committee For Sensible Water Use

What This Fight Is All About.

The facts are clearly stated in the following excerpts from a recent Denver Post editorial:

"The public has seen numerous examples of legislation jammed through Congress without adequate study and Congressman Jim Johnson, R-Colo., now is defending yet another such bill... Johnson is author of a wilderness bill to set boundaries in the Gore Range west of Denver so

that Denver will have to pump its mountain water supply to the city...

"When you think about it, Johnson has performed a pretty remarkable feat, really — forcing Denver to pump water downhill from the mountains (underlining ours)..."

"It is not done with mirrors but with wilderness boundaries. Johnson is also employing the passive support of most of the Colorado congressional delegation (underlining ours)...."

"Instead of flowing by gravity into the Dillon Reservoir the water, as a result, will have to be pumped up several hundred feet into the reservoir..."

"Johnson has shown an incredible lack of responsibility in not trying to figure out what the impact of this bill is going to be in the matter of pumping (underlining ours)...."

"When the Water Board this week raised its estimate of pumping costs to \$680 million extra over 40 years, (underlining ours)... Johnson seemed insulted. He disputed the figure but gave no figure of his own.

"Just what will Denver water users (including the city and suburbs) have to pay because of the Johnson boundaries?..."

"Johnson doesn't seem to know at all."

Gravity Costs Versus Pumping Costs.

One doesn't have to be an engineer to know that it's much cheaper to deliver water by bringing it downhill, rather than pumping it uphill.

Apparently this elementary fact hasn't made an impression on our Colorado congressional delegation.

Congresspersons Pat Schroeder, D-Denver, and Tim Wirth, D-2nd District, are supporting a U.S. Senate bill (introduced by Senator Floyd Haskell, D-Colo.) — a so-called "compromise" that would still require us to pump the water uphill.

The initial cost of this Schroeder-Wirth supported Senate bill: a mere \$368 million extra!

(Added note: Under the \$680 million Johnson bill, the electricity needed to power the pumping stations will cost an added \$2.9 million annually, enough power to serve a city of 250,000. The Schroeder-Wirth supported Haskell bill will cost an added \$1,000,000 a year in utility costs.)

Why are they trying to force us water users throughout the entire Metro Area to pay the astronomical costs in building unneeded, wasteful pumping stations that will consume short-in-supply electric power, plus saddling us with additional millions each year in utility bills that also must come out of our pockets?

Why are they against the much less expensive,

common sense plan to deliver this water by simply letting it flow downhill through buried pipes?

Could it be they don't care how much and how long we pay, as long as they satisfy the demands of the politically-powerful "no growth" advocates?

(A Challenge: We are willing to debate this critical water-economics issue with the Colorado Congressional Delegation in a public forum at any time and at any place!)

What Is Their Motive?

We believe Schroeder-Wirth-Johnson-Haskell want to make it so expensive that the Water Board simply couldn't afford to deliver the water it lawfully

owns from the Eagles Nest area.

We further believe this is an attempt on their part to restrict the inevitable orderly growth of the Eastern Slope.

What they conveniently forget is that:

Without water, jobs dry up.

Without water, our Metro Area stagnates.

Without water, the economy of our entire region suffers.

Without water, we have no future.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thanks to the hundreds who responded to our May advertisement, asking that their names be added to our Committee. And an additional "thank you" for the many, many generous contributions — the vast majority received in \$2, \$5, and \$10 checks — to help us in this crucial fight!

Let's stop them before it's too late!

Count me in. I want to join in the fight against this raid on our pocketbooks.

- ☐ Add my name to your committee
- ☐ Send me more information
- ☐ Enclosed is my check to the Committee For Sensible Water Use (CFSWU)* to help stop this wasteful Washington spending legislation.

Name _____

Address _____

(Zip) _____

Phone _____

Coupon and checks should be mailed to:

COMMITTEE FOR SENSIBLE WATER USE
Room 150
201 University Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80206
Ph: (303) 399-3205

* (Checks can be made out to "CFSWU".)

Thank you!

Committee for Sensible Water Use.

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Leonard Campbell, Denver; Robert J. Flynn, Arapahoe County; Mayor James J. Richey, Lakewood; Mayor Anthony E. Richter, Thornton.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A. M. Anzick, Denver
Richard Banta, Englewood
Ben Beasly, Denver
J. C. Coisman, Denver
Gerald T. Cooney, Denver
Leland M. Coulter, Aurora
Don DeDekker, Lakewood
Richard L. Gerstberger, Thornton
State Rep. Carl H. Gustafson, Denver
State Rep. E. E. (Casey) Hayes, Commerce City
Irving Hook, Denver
State Sen. Robert E. Johnson, Golden
Hazen E. Moore, Denver
John O'Dea, Denver
C. W. Rettler, Lakewood
Pete Smythe, Arapahoe County
Donald I. Sutton, Denver

(The Committee for Sensible Water Use is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, metro area organization dedicated to presenting and defending the water needs of Eastern Slope residents.)