

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Scott Cameron
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Acting Commissioner Cameron,

We write as Representatives of the Upper Colorado River Basin States to underscore the importance that any proposed drawdowns for Flaming Gorge and other upper basin reservoirs remain in compliance with existing agreements and governing laws.


The Western United States and Colorado River Basin are experiencing historic drought conditions, in what could be the worst year on record. The Colorado River has consistently experienced drought conditions over the past 25 years, and record high temperatures coupled with low snowpack and precipitation across the basin this year are only further exacerbating the crisis. As we continue to face these conditions, we must all live within the available water supply to ensure sustainability into the future.

The Upper Basin States continue to actively regulate water use within their states in response to the decreased available flows. Existing state laws in the Upper Basin require water users to take mandatory, uncompensated cuts to water rights that date back to the 1800s — actions taken in direct response to the decreased runoff and water levels along the river. These cuts have significant impacts on water users, including Upper Basin Tribes, and local communities and economies, but are taken in order to live within the available water supply.


Therefore, it is critical that any releases made by the federal government from Flaming Gorge and other upstream reservoirs are in compliance with existing agreements, governing laws, and are done for the direct purpose of protecting Lake Powell. There must be clear guidance on how these proposed releases will protect elevations at Lake Powell, and once the releases have been completed, Flaming Gorge and other upstream reservoirs must be fully recovered. These releases must also be appropriately sized, as continued water storage is necessary for long-term sustainability.

Millions of people across the West rely on the Colorado River, and it is our shared responsibility to ensure long-term sustainability of the River and reservoirs for years to come. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,




Joe Neguse
Member of Congress




Celeste Maloy
Member of Congress



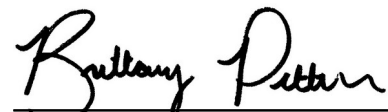
Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress




Jeff Crank
Member of Congress



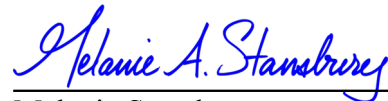
Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress




Brittany Petterson
Member of Congress



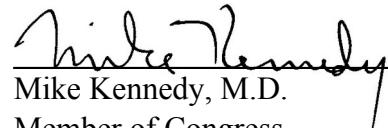
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress




Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Mike Kennedy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Gabe Evans
Member of Congress