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WATER CONGRESS
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February 6, 2020

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senator
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 2975, the Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2019

Dear Senator Bennet:

On behalf of the Colorado Water Congress (CWC), we would like to express our strong support for S. 2975, the Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2019. If enacted, S. 2975 would provide needed assistance in slowing the movement of aquatic invasive species, like zebra and quagga mussels, into Colorado and other Western States.

Aquatic invasive species pose a significant threat to Western rivers and reservoirs. Once established, these species are nearly impossible to eradicate and wreak havoc on crucial water infrastructure, limit recreation opportunities, and harm ecosystems and local economies. As invasive mussels spread across the West, preventative measures – like watercraft inspection and decontamination stations – are key to limiting their spread.

S. 2975 would provide states and municipalities the resources they need to keep watercraft inspection and decontamination stations up and running, and to prevent the spread of invasive mussels into Colorado's water infrastructure systems.

Because of aggressive inspection efforts at the state level, Colorado is one of the few headwater states still free of zebra and quagga mussels. But there's an ever-present risk of infestation from neighboring states and we believe that more must be done to keep the Centennial State's waters free of invasive mussels.

Thank you for introducing this legislation. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to working with you on this important issue in the weeks and months to come.

Sincerely,

Andy Colosimo
Federal Affairs Committee Chair

Douglas Kemper
Executive Director