

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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URBAN WATER EFFICIENCY BILL CLEARS COMMITTEE

Ensures Water Efficiency Is Addressed First

Denver, CO - Senate Bill 87, sponsored by Senator Doug Linkhart, passed the Senate Agricultural Committee on a vote of 4 to 3 this morning. The legislation would encourage increased water efficiency by large water providers, ensuring that improving water efficiency is given the first priority in obtaining new sources of water. Senate Bill 87 is the last comprehensive water efficiency bill still facing action in the State Legislature.

Senators Taylor, Isgar, Grossman, and Tapia voted in favor of the bill while Senators Entz, Chlouber, and Hillman voted against the bill. The bill will next be voted on in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The bill is supported by a diverse coalition of interests including the Colorado Water Congress, Colorado River Conservation District, Northwest Council of Governments, Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, Western Colorado Congress, League of Women Voters, Trout Unlimited, the Colorado Environmental Coalition and many other organizations.

“This bill declares it a state policy to maximize the efficient use of existing water supplies,” said Senator Doug Linkhart. “This bill puts efficiency first. It is just what we need to deal with this drought and Colorado’s long-term water future.”

While the bill would not rule out the construction of new dams and diversion projects, Linkhart explained that it would establish targets for urban water efficiency through a planning process to be carried out before water providers could receive financial assistance from the State to build new dams, pipelines, or other water development projects. “The bill amends the 1991 Water Conservation Act to set specific goals for water efficiency planning,” Linkhart said. “It spells out a host of conservation and efficiency measures for water plans to consider and directs major water providers to inform customers about easy ways to prevent water waste.”

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