



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Chip Neiman
Speaker of the Wyoming House
State Capitol, 200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Re: Line-item veto of House Enrolled Act No. 56/ House Bill 0117
- Omnibus water bill-construction

Dear Speaker Neiman,

Wyoming's Omnibus Water Construction and Planning bills remain a consistent example of how our state responsibly utilizes our resources to invest in our vital water infrastructure. These bills are the culmination of countless hours of work by the Wyoming Water Development Commission, the Water Development Office, the Legislature's Select Water Committee, irrigation districts, and project sponsors statewide. This year, these bills found themselves under the spotlight again with the recent LaPrele Dam breach order.

Despite the extraordinarily acrobatic approach this Legislature took regarding spending priorities, I thank legislators for heeding my call and working cooperatively to address the Laprele Dam situation and Wyoming's ability to effectively engage with interstate water negotiations. Mother Nature and downstream states will not wait around for Wyoming to act.

I understand the Legislature's desire to pursue additional public benefits for the amount of funding going towards the LaPrele Dam project. However, existing authorities already allow the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) to investigate such benefits without the need for Section 7 of the Omnibus water bill-construction. To advance the Legislature's goal and avoid a separation of powers issue, as Chairman of the State Board of Land Commissioners, I will request that OSLI perform an analysis of opportunities to expand public access and recreational

activity in the area using a well established process to identify voluntary exchanges or options as may reveal themselves.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon
Governor

MG:nr:kh

cc: The Honorable Bo Biteman, President of the Senate
Chief Clerk, Wyoming Senate
Chief Clerk, Wyoming House of Representatives
The Honorable Chuck Gray, Secretary of State

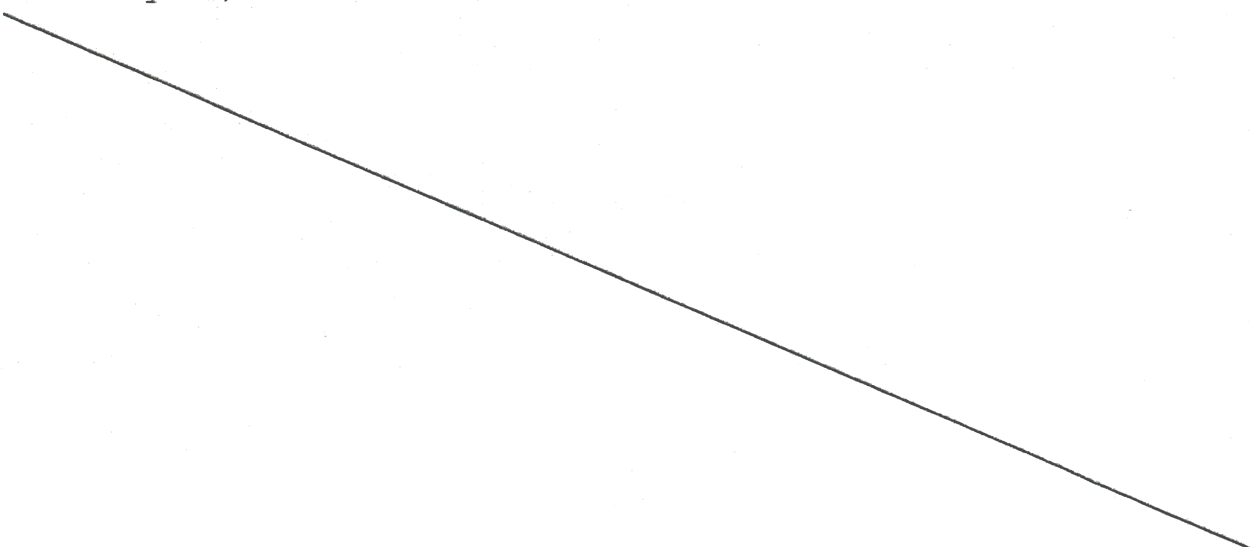
ENROLLED ACT NO. 56, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

for the accounting system that calculates the natural flow of the North Platte River. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2026.

(b) If 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001 is enacted into law, the appropriation in subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) appropriated to the state engineer's office for updating the technology used for the accounting system that calculates the natural flow of the North Platte River in 2025 Senate File 0001 or 2025 House Bill 0001.

~~Section 7. The office of state lands and investments shall investigate opportunities to, and subject to the approval of the board of land commissioners shall, exchange public lands for private lands around the LaPrele dam and reservoir to increase public access to, and recreational activity in, the area.~~ *SMC*



ORIGINAL HOUSE
BILL NO. HB0117

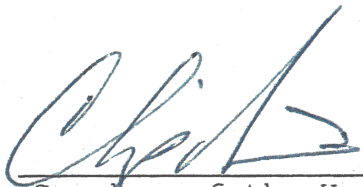
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ENROLLED ACT NO. 56, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

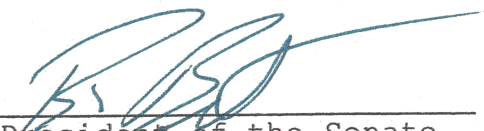
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

Section 8. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)



Speaker of the House



President of the Senate



Governor

TIME APPROVED: 17:31

DATE APPROVED: 4 March 2025

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.



Chief Clerk