

May 12, 2017

The Honorable Ken Buck
United States House of Representatives
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

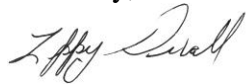
Dear Rep. Buck:

Farm Bureau supports H.R. 519, the Water and Agriculture Tax Reform Act of 2017. The bill would expand financing opportunities for mutual ditch and irrigation companies so they can more easily raise capital to improve their water distribution systems.

Mutual ditch, irrigation and water companies are important to agriculture because they allow farmers, ranchers and others to form collaborative businesses to install and maintain vital irrigation infrastructure. Current law says that capital improvements must be 85 percent shareholder financed. The bill multiplies sources from which mutual ditch, irrigation and water companies can obtain capital to expand and improve their water systems.

Farm Bureau thanks you for introducing H.R. 519. Passage will mean that farmers and ranchers can more efficiently operate mutual ditch, irrigation, and water companies to secure the water they need to grow crops and produce.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall
President