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Congress of the United States
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OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

September 15, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to thank you for your thorough stakeholder review and comprehensive cooperating agency effort in drafting a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for *Over The River*, the temporary work of art internationally renowned artists Christo and the late Jeanne-Claude proposed to exhibit along the Arkansas River Corridor.

I wrote to you in June 2009 to express my support for *Over The River* because I believe the project will benefit Colorado culturally and economically. At that time, environmental and safety concerns about the project were growing. I asked that these challenges be aired and discussed and strategies to avoid or mitigate negative consequences considered. I am pleased that the Final EIS contains more than 100 mitigation measures to address community issues and concerns, and identifies no significant impacts to any terrestrial, avian or aquatic wildlife as a result of *Over The River* when the identified mitigation measures are implemented. I trust this collaborative process will continue during installation, exhibition and removal.

I hope that the final record of decision for *Over The River* reflects the wide-spread support to host this project and the positive impact this revolutionary work of art promises.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

cc: Robert Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Helen Hankins, State Director, Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Shoop, District Manager, Front Range District, Bureau of Land Management