



January 10, 2022

The Honorable M. Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Touton,

Thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening the nation's water infrastructure. There is no more important resource in the West than water. Ensuring that storage and irrigation infrastructure is safe and resilient is crucial to the lives and livelihoods of the citizens of Wyoming. The rehabilitation of aging water infrastructure is a top priority for my administration, our Congressional delegation and this state as a whole.

As you may know, on November 15, 2021, Public Law No: 117-58 (PL 117-58) was enacted. Section 40904(b) of this law provides the Secretary of the Interior with the authority to fund the rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of a dam under a number of conditions. These conditions include that (1) the construction of the dam began on or after January 1, 1905; (2) the dam was developed under Section 4 of the Carey Act; (3) the Governor of State of which the dam is located has determined that it has reached its useful life, poses significant health and safety concerns, and requests federal support; and (4) that the estimated rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement, engineering, and permitting costs would exceed \$50,000,000.

The LaPrele Dam in eastern Wyoming, completed in 1909, is one of the oldest and largest Ambursen dams in the nation. Due to its height, capacity, and potential threat to life and downstream infrastructure, in the event of a failure, the dam has a high hazard rating. The dam contains clear and documented structural damage and if it fails, it will pose significant health and safety concerns including potential loss of life; large-scale flooding reaching the Town of Douglas; severe impact to Interstate 25; and damage to the Ayres Natural Bridge Park, a county park that is directly below the dam. The rehabilitation of this dam is an urgent public safety matter.

In my capacity as Governor of the State of Wyoming, I am writing to you to certify that it is my understanding that the LaPrele Dam, in the State of Wyoming meets the criteria of Section 40904(b) of PL-117-58 to qualify for Federal support. Specifically, the dam has reached its

useful life, poses significant health and safety concerns, and, under Section 40904(b) of PL-117-58, I request the Federal support that has been authorized.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon
Governor

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