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River District Applauds Passage of the Farm Bill, Inclusion of Critical Drought and Agricultural Programs

Glenwood Springs, CO — The U.S. Senate on Tuesday wrapped a most welcome holiday gift – passage of the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill, officially known as the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, emerged from a long-delayed conference committee on Monday, quickly received kudos from Agriculture Secretary Perdue, then passed the U.S. Senate with strong bi-partisan support on an 83-17 vote.

The Colorado River Water Conservation District applauded the Farm Bill’s passage, noting several of its important provisions.

“The critical drought resiliency provisions included in this bill will help to ensure Colorado’s farmers and ranchers can adapt to a changing climate while continuing to provide food and fiber to the nation,” **said Andy Mueller, General Manager of the Colorado River District.** “We appreciate the commitment that Senators Bennet and Gardner have shown to our farmers, ranchers and rural communities.”

The Farm Bill provides a five-year extension to numerous farm, nutrition, forestry, research and environmental programs, including new flexibility in grant programs that will help the arid West address on-going and persistent drought.

The legislation also authorizes renewal and extensive application of existing water conservation and efficiency programs such as pioneering conservation programs that the Colorado River District is leading alongside irrigators in the Gunnison basin.

The Farm Bill also provides increased funding for critical projects and programs that can assist the Colorado River basin in avoiding catastrophic Compact administration – where Colorado River water users statewide could be shutoff in order for the state to meet its contractual water delivery obligations to downstream states.

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