



February 10, 2020

Colorado General Assembly
 House Transportation and Local Government Committee
 200 E. Colfax Avenue
 Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: HB20-1164

Chairman Gray, Vice-chairman Exum and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, I write concerning HB20-1164. The bill importantly clarifies that housing authorities are exempt from water conservancy district taxes and assessments, tap fees and development impact fees. We urge your support for the bill.

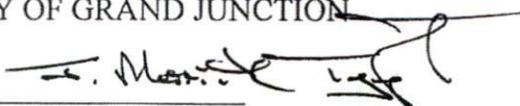
Approval of HB20-1164 is important for the Grand Junction Housing Authority(GJHA) and the City of Grand Junction to continue the GJHA's important work of providing housing to residents of our community that are in need. The City does not charge fees and assessments on GJHA development projects and believes it would be good policy to apply the same principle to fees and assessments of water conservancy districts. By providing relief from conservancy district fees, the GJHA will be better able to construct dwellings to help address the serious housing need in Grand Junction.

Conservancy districts, along with other public entities, are charged with promoting the greater prosperity and general welfare of the people. Given the shortage of housing units and the challenge to affordably construct more, HB20-1164 reasonably proposes to disallow a conservancy district from charging tap fees and development impact fees to housing authorities for water service. We encourage you to support housing authorities, including the GJHA, that are serviced by a water conservancy district by approving the bill.

With your leadership we ask that you advance the work of GJHA and other housing authorities that are provided water by conservancy districts. Because of the importance of the issue, we strongly urge you to look past the narrow issue of lost tap revenue. Conservancy districts, such as Ute Water, ought to have a role in helping to provide a path to more affordable housing in the communities they serve.

Please approve HB20-1164.

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

by: 

J. Merrick Taggart, Mayor and President of the Council

pc: Mayor *pro tem* Wortmann and Members of City Council
 City Manager Caton
 GJHA Executive Director Kole