

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET
HEALTH

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

BARBARA CUBIN

WYOMING—AT LARGE

October 25, 2007

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Mr. Lynn Burgess
Casper Boat Club Board of Directors
Casper, WY 82602

Dear Lynn and fellow Board Members:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns with the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) proposed change to Rule 43 CFR Part 429. I understand this situation causes grave concerns for you as well as the many recreationists who enjoy Alcova Reservoir.

In an effort to be of some assistance to your organization, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to Mr. Richard Rizzi with the BOR. I trust your remarks will be incorporated in the formal process, and I encourage you to advise me otherwise.

Further, in an attempt to adequately address the concerns voiced by many of my constituents, including members of the Casper Boat Club, I have contacted the BOR directly to express my interest in this matter. I requested the BOR extend the comment period at least 30 days and that they increase public awareness of the proposed change. I also requested the BOR seriously consider the effects this rule change may have on my constituents, including lake users, recreationists and grazing permit holders. Enclosed is a copy of my correspondence and press release for your reference. Rest assured I will continue to monitor this issue until a final decision is reached.

Again Lynn, thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Please feel free to contact me or my Field Representative, Michele Volk, in my Casper district office whenever I may be of assistance to you in the future.

With warm regards,

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

BC\mv
Enclosure

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October 11, 2007

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Robert W. Johnson
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

I write to request a thirty day extension of the comment period regarding the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) proposed rule on the use of Reclamation land, facilities, and waterbodies (43 CFR Part 429).

As you know, the proposed rule to revise how your agency currently administers private uses on BOR's land and water has been met with significant concern and confusion as to how numerous local activities would be affected across the west. It is my understanding that in Wyoming alone, popular private recreational uses at several sites – including both the Alcova Reservoir thirty miles southwest of Casper and the Keyhole Reservoir in Crook County – could be significantly restricted or even prohibited if the new BOR land use rule should be implemented. Recreation users across the western United States that utilize cabin sites, boat docks and clubs, or even those that hold grazing permits, will be affected by the new rule.

Many of my constituents have long enjoyed the recreational opportunities that BOR lands and waterbodies provide. They have worked to maintain a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with your agency, as well as state and local governments, in the stewardship of these resources.

With all this in mind, and considering the level of uncertainty the new rule creates regarding private recreational uses, I strongly urge you to both extend the comment period and work to increase public awareness of this proposed rule in order to ensure that all potentially impacted users have the knowledge and opportunity to weigh in on the proposal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request and I look forward to a timely response from you on this issue of great importance to my constituents.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

CC: John Lawson, BOR Wyoming Area Office
Richard Rizzi, BOR Denver Office