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P.O. Box 429
68 South 100 East
Parowan, Utah 84761
P 435.477.8300
F 435.477.8847

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To Whom it May Concern:

As a longtime resident of Iron County, a current county commissioner, and previous Board Member for the CICWCD Board of Directors, I am very aware of the issues that our valley faces in regard to water. Ensuring our community has an adequate water supply is vital to our community's success.

The residents of Central Iron County depend almost completely on the water from the Cedar Valley Basin. I have served as a member of the Groundwater Management Plan Committee for the past few years. The State Division of Water Rights has determined that our water basin receives 21,000 acre-feet per year (afy), but uses 28,000 afy. Because of this, the State is creating a Groundwater Management Plan which will try to fix that issue based solely on water right priority dates. Something must be done to help mitigate that plan.

During my time serving as a member of the CICWCD Board of Directors and as a Cedar City Councilman, I have helped acquire \$250,000 from the State, organize local government to create artificial recharge facilities throughout the valley. Recharge and conservation are essential pieces of the puzzle when it comes to water stability. In 2018, the CICWCD received \$220,000 from the legislature to install water efficient pivot sprinkler systems for better conservation. Although recharge and conservation may be the low-hanging fruit, they alone will not provide the long-term water supply of our growing population. That is why I support the Pine Valley Water Supply and Conservation Project.

The Pine Valley Water Supply and Conservation Project adds another reliable source of water to help ensure uninterrupted water delivery to homes and businesses now and in the future. As a business owner, I know how important water is to an economy. The community must have access to water to have a thriving economy.

It is the duty and responsibility of a community to prepare for the current and future water needs of the valley. It is imperative to plan in advance of needing this water, and additional water resources are desperately needed.

Sincerely,

Paul Cozzens
County Commissioner
Iron County, Utah