I am Scott W. Paxman, PE, General Manager/CEO of the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District in Northern Utah. I have worked with the District for the past 32 years in several different engineering and management roles.

We appreciate all of the efforts of congress in each of our behalf's, especially in helping us in the water industry, in the dry western states.

Utah and many of the other western states have been in some stage of persistent drought for at least the past decade, but the past 3 years have been extremely difficult for us.

The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District is the sponsoring, repayment and operating agency for the federal Weber Basin Project. The District covers 5 counties in Northern Utah, serving a population of more than 700,000 people, as well as providing irrigation water to thousands of acres of highly productive farmland. The District wholesales drinking water to 60 municipalities, and also provides water to several large industries in the area, including oil refineries and mineral extraction companies.

The District was created in 1950, thereby being the most junior water right holder on the Weber River Basin. The District has just over 410,000 AF of storage capacity and has about 230,000 AF of annual contracts. On average the District is able to receive about 200,000 AF of new storage each year. The past 3 years the District has only received 15,000 AF, 7,000 AF, and 25,000 AF respectively from the available runoff, leaving our reservoirs essentially empty. We have had to implement significant restrictions on our customers, due to the shortage of water. We have reduced all residential landscape watering by 60%, agricultural irrigation by 40%, and indoor water use by 10%. We have worked with several other water district in the state, even in other river basins to help increase our water supply. This has been very successful, in that we were able to purchase nearly 20,000 AF of water from the Central Utah Project. This purchase took the cooperation of about 5 other water districts as well as the Bureau of Reclamation and Department of the Interior. It made the difference of not cutting irrigation by 95%.

We live in a closed river basin, with the Great Salt Lake as the terminus. The Great Salt Lake is at its historical lowest elevation, which, in itself is affecting a number of things, including significant dust storms off of the dry lakebed, reducing lake-affect snowfall, and impacts on industry surrounding the lake. The Great Salt Lake is the main topic of concern in Utah and the Legislature has appropriated millions of dollars to help mitigate the effects of the disappearing lake. This makes any water development project that much more difficult and controversial.

The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District has been pushing water conservation for several decades and has spent many millions of dollars on education, incentives, working with the municipalities on conservation ordinances, etc. One good thing about this drought is that it has caught everyone's attention and we are making great progress in that area.