



For Immediate Release
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Speaker Scott Bedke Named Water Statesman

BOISE, Idaho – Speaker Scott Bedke of Oakley was honored Wednesday, January 23 by the Idaho Water Users Association with its “Water Statesman Award” for his role in fighting for the rights of water users and water issues all throughout Idaho.

“Speaker Bedke is continuously leading the charge in efforts to resolve complex water disputes,” said Paul Arrington, Director of the Idaho Water Users Association. “Largely because of his tireless efforts, surface water users, groundwater users, cities, the State of Idaho and other stakeholders throughout southern Idaho have been able to reach resolutions on some of the most difficult and complex water issues of this generation.”

“Water is one of the world’s most precious resources and it is critical to the people of Idaho as many depend on water rights and laws for their livelihoods.” said Speaker Bedke at the Association’s annual meeting and banquet. “I appreciate this honor. It is a privilege to play a role in these historic settlements and doing what is right for water users.”

Speaker Bedke most recently introduced House Bill 1, legislation addressing the water concerns on the Boise River Basin, known as Basin 63. HB 1 addresses water storage and fill of the Boise River Reservoir System after a flood release. Specifics include how the Idaho Department of Water Resources will account for stored water following the release for flood control and if that water is released, how those with water rights will be satisfied.

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