Before we move further into 2017, it is appropriate to thank our Colorado legislators and Gov. John Hickenlooper for approving HB-1233.

Sponsored by Rep. Jennie Arndt and Sen. Larry Crowder and signed into law, this legislation expands the abilities of Colorado water rights holders to voluntarily conserve water – without impacting their historical water use or rights.

Pilot programs, as authorized by this legislation, allow agricultural water users to voluntarily save water to benefit stream flows and potentially boost storage levels, now at record lows in lakes Mead and Powell.

For example, in 2017, Swire Coca-Cola, USA with Coca-Cola North America funded an upper Fraser River project, working with agricultural users to restore millions of gallons of water per year.

This bill became a reality without much news coverage, but is an important step for water management and conservation in an over-allocated Colorado River basin and should not be overlooked.

— Scarlett Foster-Moss, VP Public Relations & Government Affairs, Swire Coca-Cola, USA

The U.S. economy has become less dynamic since the Great Recession. More businesses have closed than opened, the rate of new business formation remains near an all-time low, and workers are finding it more difficult to change jobs, move to other states, and earn higher wages.

The good news is that members of the Colorado congressional delegation are leading the charge to reverse these trends for Colorado residents living in distressed areas by sponsoring the Investing in Opportunity Act

At a time when the American Dream seems in doubt for many, Sens. Bennet and Gardner and Rep. Polis deserve credit for working to ensure every Colorado community has a chance to thrive.

— Steve Glickman, John Lettieri

Co-founders of the Economic Innovation Group, a bipartisan research, policy, and advocacy organization