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February 20, 2018

Jim Daus, Executive Director  
Eagle Valley Land Trust  
P.O. Box 3016  
Edwards, CO 81632

Dear Jim:

This letter expresses our strong support for the Eagle Valley Land Trust's Great Outdoors Colorado Transaction Cost Grant Application for the Minturn Boneyard project.

Eagle County is dedicated to protecting valuable scenic and accessible open spaces, wildlife habitat and water resources. Collaborative partnerships are a preferred method of advancing open space objectives of our communities. In this case, the Town of Minturn, Eagle County and the Eagle Valley Land Trust have teamed up to conserve the Minturn Boneyard property. The property was acquired in 2013 by the Town of Minturn using county open space funds.

An agreement between the Town and County requires the conveyance of a conservation easement to permanently protect this important open space property. However, funding and staff time to find funding for the required transaction costs has been a challenge as Minturn has limited resources. The GOCO Transaction Costs grant provides a new source of funding to complete the project and the Eagle Valley Land Trust is providing the staff time to complete the application.

The property is important to conserve due to its location in the historic Town of Minturn and its adjacency to the Eagle River. The river is popular for rafting and fishing and provides drinking water to a large portion of the county's residents. The health and beauty of the Eagle River is, therefore, not only of enormous importance to the county and its residents, but also visitors to and from within the entire State of Colorado.

The protection of the property by a conservation easement will also provide a permanent natural buffer from development to the river and also will ensure permanent public access for recreation.

For all these reasons, we urge you to support the permanent protection of the property by facilitating its being placed into conservation easement held by the Eagle Valley Land Trust.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney  
Commissioner

Jill H. Ryan  
Commissioner