



Board of County Commissioners

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March 4, 2019

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act. We appreciate the leadership of the Colorado delegation to protect public lands in Colorado, and in particular the leadership of Senator Michael Bennet and Representative Joe Neguse for introducing this legislation. Our economy is based on sustainable outdoor recreation, and a major component of our residents' quality of life is our public lands.

In particular, we appreciate that the CORE Act carries forward protections that balance conservation and recreation that we have long supported in the Continental Divide Wilderness and Camp Hale Legacy Act. The bill would establish the Camp Hale National Historic Landscape, conferring well-deserved recognition on the Army's 10th Mountain Division which fought valiantly in World War II and was pivotal to the founding of the modern ski industry and the outdoor recreation industry. The CORE Act also includes all the areas of the Continental Divide Act, including the Spraddle Creek and No Name additions to the Holy Cross Wilderness.

The four elements of the CORE Act are all reflective of and accountable to the needs and interests of diverse stakeholders, with carefully drawn boundaries and thoughtful designations. We are appreciative that these proposed designations were locally developed to address existing and future recreation, wildlife habitat, wildfire management, agricultural and water supply needs.

Millions of people visit Western Colorado each year, and our federal public lands contribute immeasurably to our economy and quality of life. But we must have the vision to protect what is wilderness, create ongoing opportunities for sustainable recreation, and conserve wildlife habitat. We believe that the CORE Act strikes that balance.

We hope that Colorado's congressional delegation will prioritize passage of the CORE Act in the 116th Congress. Please let us know how we can be of assistance. And thank you for your support of Eagle County's public lands.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney

Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Commissioner

Matt Scherr

Commissioner