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March 21, 2023

The Honorable Lauren Boebert
United States House of Representatives
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Congressional Directed Spending – Maple
Street Bridge Replacement in Fruita

Honorable Congresswoman Boebert,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for Congressional Directed Spending for the replacement of the Maple Street Bridge in the City of Fruita. As Fruita has continued to grow over the past several years, it has been difficult to maintain the City's core infrastructure as demand and use increases. Further, due to funding that is limited, and that access to grants for bridge and road infrastructure has been minimal in Colorado, the City has had to delay a number of key projects. These projects can be paid for with fund balance, but that can often take years to accumulate.

One of the projects that has been identified as a key priority for the City of Fruita, and that has been delayed until grant funding is available, is the replacement of the Maple Street Bridge. The Maple Street Bridge is functionally obsolete with a load restriction due to structural condition of the bridge. The bridge has a 22'4" wide asphalt deck with a 3'-6" wide sidewalks, neither of which meet the City's standard street sections. The approach road on both sides has 44' of asphalt and 5-foot-wide sidewalks. This abrupt transition to a narrower bridge section is a safety concern, and unfortunately, resulted in a fatality in 2014.

Maple Street, and this section of it, is an important transportation corridor for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, especially since it is only ¼ mile from the Middle School. Additionally, this road is used to access the North Fruita Desert Special Recreation Management Area, one of the most popular trail systems for outdoor recreation in the County. Elimination of the existing bridge will result in an increase in the safety and welfare of our residents and guests.

The City of Fruita is pleased to support this project and request, and hope that it will be considered for Congressional Directed Spending. Please

feel free to let me know if you have any additional questions, or if you need additional information.

Thank you,

Joel Kincaid

Mayor, City of Fruita