



September 9, 2020
(deadline for signing on)

Dear Senator Gardner,

As local elected officials in Colorado, we write to implore you to actively support the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act. There is broad bipartisan support in Colorado for the protection of our public lands and this bill is the most broadly supported legislation to protect public lands in Colorado in a generation. It is supported by the majority of the Colorado congressional delegation and has passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support *twice*. The CORE Act's inclusion in the House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) offers this Congress a critical opportunity to pass significant protections for Colorado public lands. As the Colorado Senator on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we urge you to actively take up the CORE Act in the Senate this year.

COVID-19 has hit our mountain communities very hard. Some are struggling with 50% unemployment. Before the pandemic, 229,000 jobs in Colorado were in our state's outdoor recreation economy. As local elected officials who are tasked with helping our region's economy to recover, we know protecting our state's public lands permanently is an important part of the solution. The CORE Act will help our communities recover from the pandemic by bringing some of these people back to work.

The CORE Act, which will protect 400,000 acres of Colorado public land and nearly 80,000 acres will be new recreation and conservation management areas that preserve existing outdoor uses such as hiking and mountain biking, is the most significant and broadly-supported effort to protect Colorado's most cherished lands, waters, and forests in a generation. It also includes a first-of-its-kind National Historic Landscape at Camp Hale to honor Colorado's military legacy and the history of Colorado's 10th Mountain Division, a unique and powerful tribute to those who have served our country. The last living members of the 10th Mountain Division have [called on you to support this effort](#) before they pass.

For decades, local communities have been calling for the protection of historic sites, recreation areas, unspoiled wilderness lands, as well as waterways and wildlife habitat through individual pieces of legislation that have now been united and refined in the CORE Act. This important legislation is the result of collaboration with diverse stakeholders including ranchers, sportsmen, small business owners, veterans, local elected officials, outdoor recreation organizations, as well as water, and energy groups.

Public lands are the backbone of our mountain communities. This bill will protect our public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities to boost the economy as we recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has now passed the House of Representatives twice. We urge you to publicly support the CORE Act and work with Senate leadership to ensure the CORE Act passes Congress this year.

Sincerely,

(below list as of 8/27/20)

Mayor Torre, Town of Aspen
Mayor Pro Tem Ward Hauenstein, Town of Aspen
City Councilperson Skippy Mesirow, Town of Aspen
Mayor Sarah Smith Hymes, Town of Avon
Mayor Bill Kane, Town of Basalt
Council Member Bill Infante, Town of Basalt
Council Member Elyse Hottel, Town of Basalt
Mayor Sam Weaver, City of Boulder
Council Member Mary Dolores Young, City of Boulder
Council Member Aaron Brockett, City of Boulder
Mayor Eric Mamula, Town of Breckenridge
Mayor Dan Richardson, Town of Carbondale
Trustee Heather Henry, Town of Carbondale
Trustee Lani Kitching, Town of Carbondale
Mayor James A. Schmidt, Town of Crested Butte
Mayor Pro Tem William Dujardin, Town of Crested Butte
County Commission Chair Kathy Chandler-Henry, Eagle County
County Commissioner Matt Scherr, Eagle County
County Commissioner Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County
Mayor Hunter Mortensen, Town of Frisco
Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Burley, Town of Frisco
Council Member Melissa Sherburne, Town of Frisco
County Commissioner Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County
County Commissioner Ronald Mason, Gunnison County
Mayor Laila Benitez, Town of Mountain Village
Mayor Pro Tem Dan Caton, Town of Mountain Village
Council Member Patrick Berry, Town of Mountain Village
Council Member Natalie Binder, Town of Mountain Village
Council Member Peter Duprey, Town of Mountain Village
Council Member Jack Gilbride, Town of Mountain Village
Council Member Marti Prohaska, Town of Mountain Village
Mayor Corinne Platt, Town of Ophir
County Commissioner Greg Poschman, Pitkin County
County Commissioner George Newman, Pitkin County
County Commissioner Kelly McNicholas Kury, Pitkin County
County Commissioner Steve Child, Pitkin County
Mayor John I. Clark, Town of Ridgway
Mayor Pro Tem Eric Johnson, Town of Ridgway
Council Member Tessa Cheek, Town of Ridgway
Council Member Kevin Grambley, Town of Ridgway
Council Member Beth Lakin, Town of Ridgway
Council Member Russ Meyer, Town of Ridgway
Council Member Terry Schuyler, Town of Ridgway
County Commissioner Hilary Cooper, San Miguel County

County Commissioner Kris Holstrom, San Miguel County
County Commissioner Lance Waring, San Miguel County
County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County
President Jason Lacy, City of Steamboat Springs
President Pro Tem Kathi Meyer, City of Steamboat Springs
Council Member Robin Crossan, City of Steamboat Springs
Council Member Lisel Petis, City of Steamboat Springs
Council Member Michael Buccino, City of Steamboat Springs
Council Member Sonja Macys, City of Steamboat Springs
Council Member Heather Sloop, City of Steamboat Springs
Mayor DeLanie Young, Town of Telluride
Mayor Pro Tem Todd Brown, Town of Telluride