



75 South Frontage Road West
Vail, Colorado 81657
vailgov.com

Town Council
970.479.2106
970.479.2157 fax

March 19, 2019

U.S. Senator Michael Bennet
1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO. 80204

Dear U.S. Senator Michael Bennet,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (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 public lands support our communities' quality of life and support our sustainable outdoor recreation-driven economies.

Continental Divide - 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 Recreation, Wilderness and Camp Hale Legacy Act which was introduced last Congress. 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 Vail, the modern ski industry and the outdoor recreation industry. The bill was previously introduced in by Sen. Bennet in January 2018 (S. 2337).

San Juans - In particular, we appreciate that the CORE Act carries forward protections that balance conservation and recreation that we have long supported in the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act, which was introduced last Congress. Protections for the San Juan Mountains have enjoyed remarkably consistent and broad support, including all three counties where the lands are located, five major local municipalities, over 100 local businesses, and a wide array of affected stakeholders. These stakeholders include ranchers, sportsmen, private landowners, recreation groups, the area's only operating mining company, and the region's biggest ski resort. The bill was most recently introduced by Sen. Michael Bennet in April 2018 (S. 2721) and has been passed by both the House Natural Resources Committee (Fall 2010) and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Fall 2013). Most recently, a Senate hearing was held on the bill in August of 2018.

Thompson Divide - In particular, we appreciate that the CORE Act carries forward protections that balance conservation and recreation that we have long supported in the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act, which was introduced last Congress. The Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act has enjoyed consistent and broad support from local governments and diverse stakeholders for years. The bill has enjoyed support from Gunnison and Pitkin Counties, eight local municipalities, and a wide array of local businesses and organizations. Individual supporters come from all walks of life and all political persuasions, and include ranchers, sportsmen, private landowners, recreation groups, small business owners, skiing companies, and many more. A version of the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act was most recently introduced by Sen. Bennet in March of 2017 (S. 481).

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 the central mountains and western slope of 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.

On behalf of the Vail Town Council, we hope that Colorado's congressional delegation will prioritize passage of the CORE Act in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Chapin". The signature is stylized with a large "D" and "C".

Dave Chapin, Mayor



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U.S. Senator Cory Gardner
721 19th Street, Ste. 150
Denver, CO. 80202

Dear U.S. Senator Cory Gardner,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (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 public lands support our communities' quality of life and support our sustainable outdoor recreation-driven economies.

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March 19, 2019

U.S. Congressman Joe Neguse
2503 Walnut Street, Ste. 300
Boulder, CO. 80302

Dear U.S. Congressman Joe Neguse,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (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 public lands support our communities' quality of life and support our sustainable outdoor recreation-driven economies.

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March 19, 2019

U.S. Congressman Scott Tipton
609 Main Street, Ste. 105
Alamosa, CO. 81101

Dear U.S. Congressman Scott Tipton,

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