



October 1, 2020

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,

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Council Member David Knight, Town of Basalt
Council Member Ryan Slack, Town of Basalt
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Council Member Aaron Brockett, City of Boulder
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Trustee Lani Kitching, Town of Carbondale
Trustee Marty Silverstein, Town of Carbondale
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Council Member Steven Milroy, Town of Dillon
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Council Member Barbara Noseworthy, City of Durango

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