Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
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May 4, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Colorado Roadless Rule

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners supports the Colorado Roadless Rule and urges you to work with the State of Colorado in the adoption and implementation of the Rule.

Gunnison County recognizes coal as a valuable national, state and local resource as we rely on property tax and royalties related to coal mining. To that end, Gunnison County has designated the North Fork Valley Coal Resource Special Area and adopted the Coal Resource Special Area Coal Mining Regulations. As well, we support the concept of methane recovery from active and inactive mines.

While coal mining is vital to Gunnison County, we must balance the equation by also considering recreational tourism as it is our primary economy. In order to ensure the continued viability of our tourism economy, it will be imperative to keep currently undeveloped roadless areas free from industrial uses.

Again, we urge you to work with the State of Colorado in the adoption and implementation of the Rule as soon as possible in order to sufficiently and fairly protect both coal mining and tourism in our valley.

Sincerely,

Hap Channell, Chairperson | Paula Swenson, Commissioner | Phil Chamberland, Commissioner

cc: Governor John Hickenlooper
Congressman Scott Tipton
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator Mark Udall