AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Correspondence; Letter of Support for City of Gunn

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Letter of support for City of Gunnison opportunity zone application.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Cathie Pagano **Submitter's Email Address:** cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 2/22/2018

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 2/27/2018

Revised April 2015

February 27, 2018

ATTN: Office of Economic Development and International Trade:
RE: Census Tract ID 08051963700

As Chair of the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners in Gunnison, Colorado I extend this letter of recommendation for the City of Gunnison to be considered as an Opportunity Zone.

I find that the assets and ambitions within the City of Gunnison, in tandem with Gunnison County, have amply prepared this municipality for designation. Key elements that define the strengths and support mechanisms already in place, are as follows:

- Through both organic business development and the progress of the ICELab Accelerator, the City of Gunnison, and Gunnison County have a growing number of companies at various phases of development seeking alternative funding models and securing venture capital. We are currently engaging investors for everything from real estate, to startups and expansions.
- The City of Gunnison has sufficient availability of adjacent commercial and industrial parcels and request acceptance of those zones into the Opportunity Zone boundary (see appendix I).
- In 2017, Western State Colorado University procured an EDA POWER grant to launch the ICELab @Western, an entrepreneurship center with both incubator and accelerator programs to serve companies throughout all phases of development.
- ICELab @Western launches its second accelerator cohort this fall, with a growing network of statewide mentors and investors. The ICELab accelerator program is also in service to Delta County throughout the terms of the EDA POWER grant. ICELab's accelerator is a member of the Global Accelerator Network.
- Borick Business School at Western State Colorado University launches an Outdoor Retail MBA in 2018 and WSCU offers other unique MBA programs.
- Gunnison River Partners is our local, well-established venture fund, along with a growing network of local independent/accredited investors.
- Gunnison County is part of the REGION10 Enterprise Zone.
- Western State Colorado University (WSCU) houses the West Central SBDC office in service to Chaffee, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Delta, Ouray and San Miguel counties.

Sincerely,

Phil Chamberland

Chair, Gunnison County Board of Commissioners

Appendix I:

City of Gunnison
Signal Peak Industrial Park I & II
Vista Business Park
Gold Basin Industrial Park
N
0
1 mi