Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Phone: (970) 641–0248 • Fax: (970) 641–3061
Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org • www.GunnisonCounty.org

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Senator Bennet and Representative Neguse,

Gunnison County has long worked on and desired to see a permanent boundary designation for the Curecanti National Recreation Area. Since the construction of the Blue Mesa Reservoir in the 1950's and 60's establishing this boundary has been long awaited. We have worked tirelessly through several decades on building a foundation of support and the overwhelming majority of Gunnison County residents seek this action. Most feel it is long overdue.
In northern Gunnison County, we have worked with many neighboring counties and communities to develop and collaborate sensible protections for the Thompson Divide. The politics, uses and desires of these diverse constituents have found common ground on the need to provide long-term and enduring protections for this area. The benefits to ranching, big game and recreation along with thoughtful management will keep this headwaters region providing long-term benefits for generations to come.

The CORE Act will serve as the vehicle to deliver on the promise Senator Bennet made to this community on the banks of the Slate River outside Crested Butte years ago. He challenged us to invite a diversity of stakeholders to the table and discuss what we want to see our public lands look like long into the future. The CORE Act represents the many of the outcomes this community supports. We learned that when communities collaborate and compromise through hard work, vigorous debate and meaningful discussion they have the ability to create durable protections rooted in vision and thought to future generations.

We could not be happier to see the long term vision for Curecanti Boundary designation and the more recent vision for Thompson Divide Protections being included in the CORE Act. We look forward to continuing our work with you both and urging Senator Gardner and Representative Tipton to join us in working toward the passage of the CORE Act. Protecting some of the wild and iconic areas in Gunnison County is an opportunity for both locals and visitors to continue to have access to these areas while still seeing the immense benefits protections will bring for recreation, ranching and sporting for future generations. For all Coloradans, these areas are the source of our clean air and water and the wellspring of our identity and history and in such, worthy of our steadfast commitment to protect.
Please look to Gunnison County to support and advocate for the passing of the CORE Act. We thank you for your leadership on this legislative package.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Houck Chairperson	John Messner Vice-Chairperson	Roland Mason Commissioner

200 East Virginia Avenue • Gunnison, CO 81230