



# SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO

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March 13, 2019

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Neguse  
1419 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support of the CORE Act

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Gardner, Representative Tipton and Representative Neguse:

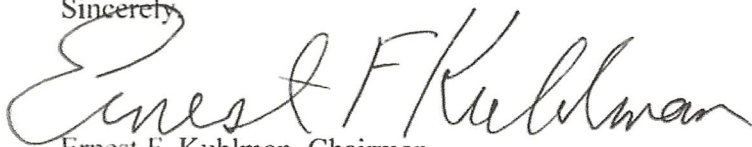
We are writing you to express our ongoing support for the San Juan Mountains Wilderness proposal, and to urge your support as well. In past correspondence, we have emphasized the consistency of our commitment to the proposal, and our belief that it will serve the residents of San Juan County and our local economy.

As you know, the San Juan Mountains proposal would designate additions to the existing Mt. Sneffels and Lizard Head Wilderness areas, create a new wilderness at McKenna Peak, establish the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area, and withdraw Naturita Canyon from mineral entry. The legislation was crafted in much the same manner as your successful Hermosa Creek legislation, with extensive stakeholder and community input, and numerous adjustments in response to individual, on-the-ground concerns. Interests consulted include ranchers, water right holders, private landowners, utility companies, miners, motorized recreationists, and local residents and businesses. As a testament to the extensive consultation done, all three affected counties, key municipalities, and over 200 local businesses have been consistent in their support.

We strongly support the CORE Act as a means to protect these public lands and also as a means to protect our economy. The outdoor economy is one of the top economic drivers for Colorado and a major driver for San Juan County. The CORE Act seeks to protect over 400,000 acres of public lands in response to the desires of our communities to provide common sense protections that provide for outdoor recreation. San Juan County requests that our Colorado congressional delegation work together to pass this critical legislation that protects public lands that are critical to our local economy.

We look forward to working with each of you toward the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernest F. Kuhlman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ernest F. Kuhlman, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners