

August 30, 2018

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Polis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Tipton
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Coffman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Bennet and Gardner and Representatives DeGette, Polis, Tipton, Buck, Lamborn, Coffman, and Perlmutter:

As business leaders, owners, and managers in Colorado, we're enthusiastic about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the benefits it has provided for our state and nation. This program has done a great deal to help protect and enhance the natural areas, cultural heritage, and places to recreate that are essential to our local economies and community well-being.

We ask that you do all you can to achieve full funding for and permanent reauthorization of this vital program before its September 30, 2018 expiration date. Without the certainty that reauthorizing LWCF provides, the collaborative work by willing sellers, non-profit

partners, and government agencies on many of the conservation acquisitions and successes described below would never have happened, and future efforts will grind to a halt.

In particular, we are concerned about the future of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT), a world-class resource that draws thousands of visitors to Colorado each year. A gap in protected public land ownership on the trail corridor near Muddy Pass, just east of Steamboat Springs, forces trail users to walk along a paved highway for 14 miles between the Medicine Bow-Routt and Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests. The proposed reroute would not only move the CDT off of this dangerous road-walk, effectively completing the 800+ miles of the CDT in Colorado, but would also open up thousands of acres of prime elk habitat for sportsmen by providing access to lands owned by the Colorado State Land Board.

Without LWCF, there is no obvious way to fund the willing sales necessary to create this protected public corridor, leaving this 40-year-old National Scenic Trail with no path to completion.

With LWCF, however, protection of the CDT corridor at Muddy Pass would add to an already long list of successes for Coloradans financed by the fund. Since its creation by Congress 54 years ago, LWCF has invested more than \$268 million to protect Colorado's outdoor places, public access to trails, sportsmen's access, and urban parks through both its "state side" and "federal side" programs. These investments have paid off in the expansion of Colorado's booming \$28 billion outdoor recreation industry, an economic powerhouse in our state supporting 229,000 jobs which generate \$9.7 billion in wages and salaries and \$2 billion in state and local tax revenues each year.

LWCF's federal program has provided funds for protection of many of the iconic places where Colorado residents and visitors go to hike, hunt, ski and bike as well as learn about our culture and history. These places include Rocky Mountain National Park, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Arapaho National Forest, Mesa Verde National Park and Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, among many others.

Its state side funding, which provides grants to local governments and the state, has also made incredible impacts on our communities. Since 1965, these grants have funded projects like the Garden of the Gods, Durango's Rank Park, Denver Urban Gardens, and Salida's Milk Run Trail. Matched with state and local funds, these grants have enabled construction and enhancement of state and local parks, pools, ball fields, and many other recreation facilities in our communities, benefiting Coloradans from all over the state.

LWCF funding has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars of state, local, and private matching funds to contribute to the betterment of Colorado and well-being of its citizens, and its reauthorization is critical to our future. Now more than ever, with the rapid expansion of Colorado's population and ever more common water shortages throughout the Colorado River basin, Coloradans need the tool of LWCF to protect public land access, critical drinking water supplies, and community resources.

As LWCF's September 30, 2018 deadline approaches, we urge you to work toward this program's permanent reauthorization and full funding. Doing so will ensure that our nation will continue to invest in its natural, cultural, and recreational heritage, which benefits our communities, our economy, our children and our grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Andrew and Emily Walker
7000 Feet Running Company
Salida

Sandra Lacey
The Hodgepodge
Salida

Nate Porter
Salida Mountain Sports
Salida

Yolanda Walton
Yolo Clothing, Inc.
Salida

Jennifer Willson
Oveja Negra
Salida

Bill Gamber
Big Agnes
Steamboat Springs

Melanie Garr
Simple Lodge & Hostel
Salida

Mackenzie Yelvington
Point6
Steamboat Springs

J. Michael Kunkel
Lifestream Water Systems, Inc.
Salida

Rich Hager
Honey Stinger
Steamboat Springs

Mark Rittmann
The Maverick Potter
Salida

Chris Daniels
BAP
Steamboat Springs

Peter Simonson
Victoria Hotel and Tavern
Salida

Coquette Collins
Pagosa Mountain Sports
Pagosa Springs

Donna K. Cole
Kaleidoscope Toys
Salida

Tom Latter
Home Again
Pagosa Springs

Kathie Younghans
Amicas Pizzas, Microbrews and More
Salida

Zofia Ciszek
Alpine Inn of Pagosa Springs
Pagosa Springs

Dawn Heigele
Café Dawn
Salida

Layne Rigney
Osprey Packs, Inc.
Cortez

Patrick Randall
Never Summer Mountain Products
Grand Lake

Barton Lone
Grand Lake Wine & Spirits
Grand Lake

John Piribek
Rocky Mountain SUP
Grand Lake

Zach Boor
Grand Lake Bike Company
Grand Lake

Jeanette Lone
Cabin Quilts & Stitches
Grand Lake

Derrick Packer
Interiors by Design
Breckenridge

Thomas Tyler Moebius
FastG8, Inc.
Carbondale

Steve Denny
Ragged Mountain Sports
Carbondale

Tai Jacober
Crystal River Meats
Carbondale

Brian Holcombe
rygr
Carbondale

Penn Newhard
Backbone Media
Carbondale

David Coors
AC Golden Brewing Company
Golden

Alec Caprarella
Vital Outdoors
Golden

Debra Spence
Runners High
Golden and Morrison

Donna Frank
A Shared Blanket
Durango

Jeremy Dakan
Pine Needle Mountaineering
Durango

Debra Brown
MobilizeUs
Wheat Ridge

Matthew F. Burditt
Angles Sports Exchange LLC
Longmont

David Dragoo
Mayfly Outdoors
Montrose

Jonathan Miller
Jagged Edge Mountain Gear
Telluride

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Townie Books
Crested Butte

Jeremy Rubingh
Wild North Salmon Source
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Crested Butte

Arvin Ramgoolam
Rumors Coffee & Tea House
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Edwin Sandoval
The Asian Palate
Buena Vista

Ed Barkowski
BV Roastery
Buena Vista

Corey E. Johnson
Sundance and Friends
Buena Vista

Seldon Turnbull
The Little Daisy Company
Buena Vista

Megan Kingman
CKS Main Street
Buena Vista

Kristen Krasnow
Buena Vida
Buena Vista

Robbie Cooper Johnson
The Lariat
Buena Vista

Susan Greiner
Wilderness Aware Rafting
Buena Vista

Katherine McCoy
McCoy & McCoy, Inc.
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MJ Smoot
Nite Ize, Inc.
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Yusuke Igarashi
Montbell America, Inc.
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Kenton John Worries
Runners Roost
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Peter Downing
Suffer Better
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Fire on the Mountain Buffalo Wings
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Progressive Promotions
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Casey Vandenoever
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Charity & Lelis Gonzalez
Inn the Clouds Hostel & Inn
Leadville

Fritz Howard
Melanzana Mountain Gear, Inc.
Leadville

Dave Bombard
Bishop Bindings, LLC
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Steven Smith
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Planning
Frisco

Mara Ferris
Gen9 Productions
Grand Junction

Lee Harrison, Kevin and Angie Timm
Seek Outside
Grand Junction

Bob Wade
Ute Mountaineer
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Forrest Merithew
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Toni King, Carol Atha & Rodney
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Root Architecture & Development
Indian Hills