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111 Colorado Local Elected Officials Urge Senator Gardner to Finally Take Action on the CORE Act

Urge Action and Leadership After Years of Inaction

Today 111 local elected officials in Colorado, with representatives from over 30 communities, [sent a letter](#) to Senator Cory Gardner imploring him to actively support the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act this year.

County Commissioner Matt Scherr, Eagle County, said, "Public lands are vital to Colorado and our way of life - especially as we navigate this pandemic. I urge Senator Gardner to take action to move the CORE Act, the most widely supported public lands bill for Colorado in a generation, through the Senate this year."

The majority of Colorado's congressional delegation supports the CORE Act, which has passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support twice. The CORE Act's inclusion in the House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) offers this Congress an opportunity to pass significant protections for Colorado public lands.

County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County, said, "COVID-19 has hit our mountain communities very hard. As local elected officials who are tasked with helping our region's economy recover, we know that protecting our state's public lands permanently is an important part of the solution. Our residents and visitors are finding solace in the outdoors more than ever. The CORE Act will help protect our robust and growing outdoor recreation economy. It's time to move this forward and pass the CORE Act this year."

The CORE Act will protect 400,000 acres of Colorado public land and designate nearly 80,000 acres as new recreation and conservation management areas that preserve existing outdoor uses such as hiking and mountain biking. It is the most significant and broadly-supported effort to protect Colorado's most cherished lands, waters, and forests in a generation.

The measure also includes a first-of-its-kind National Historic Landscape at Camp Hale to honor Colorado's military legacy and the history of Colorado's 10th Mountain Division, a unique and powerful tribute to those who have served our country. The last living members of the 10th Mountain Division have [called on Senator Gardner to support this effort](#) before they pass.

Mayor Dan Richardson, Town of Carbondale, said, "The CORE Act is a rare example of westerners leading Washington on how to protect our land, and our livelihood, rather than the other way around. It honors the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale; protects the ranches, rural agriculture, and wildlife of the Thompson Divide; improves management, conservation, and recreation at the Curecanti National Recreation Area; protects the iconic scenery, recreation, and water supply in the San Juan Mountains; and secures the hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation economies of many communities across the state of Colorado."

Mayor Jim Gelwicks, City of Gunnison, said, "Colorado depends on public lands for our health and welfare. For 50 years, Curecanti National Recreation Area is an important resource for Gunnison. It is well past time to clean up their boundaries. The CORE Act protects critical historic sites, recreation areas, wilderness lands, as well as waterways and

wildlife habitat. Various pieces of legislation are now united and refined into a solid agreement. Senator Gardner should join his fellow Coloradans and pass the CORE act this Congressional session.”

County Commissioner Lance Waring, San Miguel County, said, “The CORE Act is the most widely supported public lands bill for Colorado in a generation, that is the result of collaboration with diverse stakeholders with support from ranchers, sportsmen, outdoor industry representatives, mountain bikers, conservation groups, and thousands of Coloradans. That’s why 111 of us - local elected officials in Colorado call on Senator Gardner to protect our public lands and actively push to make the CORE Act a reality before the end of the year.”

Mayor Torre, City of Aspen, Colorado, said, “Public lands are the backbone of our mountain communities. By protecting our public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities, the CORE Act will boost the economy as we recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Gardner, over 111 local elected officials urge you to finally take action to help pass the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act this year.”

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ICYMI: In case you missed it, earlier today, the Mountain Pact hosted a call with local elected officials from Colorado to discuss why over 100 Colorado local elected officials from over 30 mountain communities sent a letter to Senator Gardner imploring him to finally take action to help pass the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act.

[LISTEN TO THE CALL HERE](#)

Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 75 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.