



President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Colorado is second to none when it comes to the great outdoors. We are privileged to do business and recreate in a state that has no rival when it comes to our iconic natural landscapes. From our 22 million acres of public land, 105,344 miles of rivers, 690 peaks over 13,000 feet, and expansive vistas of prairies, mountain valleys and desert canyons, these spaces are central to Colorado's lifestyle, heritage, identity, and economy.

A healthy environment and a healthy economy are inextricably linked. This is true for Colorado's outdoor recreation economy that generates \$37 billion in consumer spending annually, and contributes 511,000 direct jobs. Those who work in the industry have collectively earned over \$21 billion in wages and salaries, while those who support it have generated \$9 billion in state and local tax revenue. It is also true for the wide variety of other businesses located in communities near Colorado's public lands and rivers. From breweries to banks, our businesses thrive when we can recruit and retain employees because a community's quality of life is enhanced by nearby public and protected lands.

National Monument designations have not only successfully protected the ecological, cultural and historic values of landscapes across the country, but these designations have improved opportunities for recreation and helped grow the economies of nearby communities. An analysis of the 17 largest national monuments has confirmed that population, employment, personal income, and per-capita income increased in communities around each of the national monuments after they were created.

As Colorado businesses and representatives of the human-powered outdoor recreation community, we are writing in support of executive actions called for by Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Congressman Neguse, and Governor Polis in a letter they submitted to your administration on August 25th. Specifically, we urge immediate action to designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument that includes the Tenmile Range, along with initiating processes to protect places such as the Thompson Divide from inappropriate energy development.

Swift action to protect places that helped shape our nation's history is critical. Doing so will also ensure a thriving and sustainable economy for our businesses while guaranteeing our shared public lands are protected for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

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