

Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

April 20, 2021

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your swift action in addressing the climate crisis during your first weeks in office and for your championing of the creation of a historic Civilian Climate Corps. We write to both express our gratitude for your work on this critical issue, and to encourage your administration to keep pursuing these bold ideas by continuing to draw from legislation such as the *21st Century Conservation Corps Act* (H.R. 1162/S. 487).

As county commissioners and mayors from across the state of Colorado, we understand the pressing need for increased resources to manage our public lands. From addressing deferred maintenance, to restoring forest health, our communities would benefit greatly from increased federal investment in our public lands. Throughout 2020, our state has been severely impacted by not only a devastating pandemic, but also a historic wildfire season. Three of the largest fires in Colorado history burned in the last year, costing the state over \$200 million in suppression costs alone.

We now have a unique opportunity to not only repair our public health and economy, but to also restore our environment. Given this opportunity, we were encouraged to see a \$10 billion investment for a Civilian Climate Corps included in the *American Jobs Plan*. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and share our enthusiastic support for establishing a Civilian Climate Corps to address the many natural resources management needs of our communities.

By way of example, the *21st Century Conservation Corps Act*, led by Rep. Joe Neguse and Sen. Ron Wyden, aims to address a variety of challenges facing our communities by investing in workforce training and jobs to support conservation programs and reforestation to restore our public lands; addressing deferred maintenance and expanding recreation access on our public lands; improving access to clean drinking water; and mitigating the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Our communities would greatly benefit from these investments and we support their inclusion in the creation of the Civilian Climate Corps, as proposed by your administration.

Given the historic need for address wildfire resilience, mitigation and public lands restoration, legislation such as the *21st Century Conservation Corps Act* will not only take steps to address the climate crisis and improve environmental resiliency, but also put Americans back to work.

We look forward to joining you in putting a new generation of Americans to work conserving our public lands and waters.

Sincerely,

Sarah Smith Hymes, Mayor of Avon

William Karspeck, Mayor of Berthoud

Town of Blue River

Sam Weaver, Mayor of Boulder

Matt Jones, Boulder County Commissioner

Claire Levy, Boulder County Commissioner

Marta Loachamin, Boulder County Commissioner

Eric Mamula, Mayor of Breckenridge

Matt Scherr, Eagle County Commissioner

Jeanne Mcqueeny, Eagle County Commissioner

Wendy Koenig, Mayor of Estes Park

Wade Troxell, Mayor of Fort Collins

Hunter Mortenson, Mayor of Frisco

Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Commissioner

Richard Cimino, Grand County Commissioner

Lesley Dahlkemper, Jefferson County Commissioner

Jamie Harkins, Mayor of Lafayette

Jody Shaddock-McNally, Larimer County Commissioner

John Kefalas, Larimer County Commissioner

Ashley Stolzman, Mayor of Louisville

Jacki Marsh, Mayor of Loveland

Nicholas Angelo, Mayor of Lyons

Kris Larsen, Mayor of Nederland

Corinne Platte, Mayor of Ophir

Greg Poschman, Pitkin County Commissioner

Hilary Cooper, San Miguel County Commissioner

Tamara Pogue, Summit County Commissioner

Elisabeth Lawrence, Summit County Commissioner

Clint Folsom, Mayor of Superior

David Chapin, Mayor of Vail & the Vail City Council