



September 12, 2022

Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Attn: John_Whitney@bennet.senate.gov

Dear Senator Bennet,

On behalf of the Town of Dolores, we are expressing support for the legislation you and Senator Hickenlooper introduced last month that would help conserve lands around the Dolores River in Montezuma, Dolores, and San Miguel Counties. The “Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act” is an exemplary piece of locally crafted legislation that would pave the way for better management of the River just downstream from our community.

The Town of Dolores benefits from the Dolores River in many ways: our culture is very much centered around benefits including river recreation, land-based non-motorized and motorized recreation, agriculture, and industry. Importantly, the National Conservation Area would protect all of these important uses, while increasing the management resources available to ensure their collective longevity.

The process of designating a National Conservation Area and Special Management Area is also very inclusive, as the legislation would create an Advisory Council to help create the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan.

We believe that the designations in this bill will help better manage an increase in recreation. While the Town of Dolores benefits from recreation-based tourism, we also know that increased management tools and resources need to be implemented soon, so these lands that are the centerpiece of southwest Colorado are preserved for future generations.

Lastly, we want to thank the Senator for your steadfast support on this lengthy process, and ability to work with and support bi-partisan and diverse conservation efforts. We believe this bill should continue through the congressional process this year and are excited to help as we can.

Respectfully,

Leigh Reeves
Mayor, Town of Dolores