June 22, 2020

Honorable Scott Tipton
U.S. Representative
218 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: LWCF funding and Great American Outdoors Act vote

Dear Congressman Tipton:

In this time of public health emergency, we hope you will invest in our parks, public lands, and outdoor recreation in recognition of their importance to our economy, and to our communities' wellbeing through full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and voting for the Great American Outdoors Act.

As we stated in our letter to you back in September, 2019, Aspen is surrounded on three sides by public lands that are used for recreation and conservation. Our community is inextricably linked to the public lands that surround us, and our residents and business owners rely on public lands visitation for economic strength and cultural vitality. By supporting and funding the LWCF you are supporting and enhancing our local community and many others like it across the country.

Please vote in support of the Great American Outdoors Act in support of mountain communities and public lands for all Americans. In the weeks and months to come, our nation’s parks, trails, and outdoor spaces will be integral to our nation's coping and recovery. Great parks and green spaces make stronger, healthier communities. Everyone deserves access to the outdoors and the countless benefits parks provide. America’s public lands bring us peace of mind and generate economic revenue - both will be critically needed to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our national, state and local parks, trails and public lands are a critical economic driver for communities big and small, urban and rural, across the nation. Investing in our public lands, and providing full, permanent funding for LWCF is a low-cost economic stimulus that will pay big dividends for communities across America. Please vote for the Great American Outdoors Act.

Sincerely,

Ward Haenestine, MAYOR PRO-TEM
Torre, MAYOR, Skippy Mesirow, Ann Mullins, Rachael Richards, CITY COUNCIL