STATEMENT ON EFFORT TO RECALL GWEN LACHELT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 19, 2018

Western Leaders Network was founded to elevate the voices of local, western elected leaders and to help ensure that conservation policy decisions are the best ones for western communities. We are a nonpartisan organization because conservation is not a partisan issue but a western value.

It is therefore concerning that Western Leaders Network founder and La Plata County Commissioner Gwen Lachelt is facing a recall election – and that her work with Western Leaders Network is a reason for that effort.

To suggest Lachelt’s Western Leaders Network role compromises her county commissioner’s office is to fundamentally misunderstand the duty of local elected officials to stand up for the health, safety and welfare of their constituents. Do we not want local leaders with a proactive approach and a big-picture mindset, who reach beyond county/municipal boundaries to engage with state and federal leaders that set policy affecting our lands, our economies and our quality of life?

The BLM methane rule is a prime example of how Western Leaders Network works to make local leaders’ voices more prominent in decision-making that affects our towns, cities, counties and tribes. Though this issue is in the hands of federal decision-makers, their decision will impact millions of westerners. Without vehicles like Western Leaders Network and officials like Lachelt, local leadership cannot effectively participate in larger dialogues like the BLM methane rule debate and thereby positively influence decisions for westerners – including the La Plata County residents who Commissioner Lachelt serves.

Western Leaders Network Board
Elise Jones
Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk
Lauren Pagel
Don Schreiber