



May 22, 2013

The Honorable Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO**

Dear Congressman Tipton:

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado is writing in support of the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Legislation that you introduced and the positive economic impacts we believe could be beneficial and significant for San Juan County.

We have a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report which provides a detailed economic and demographic profile for San Juan County and the purpose of the CEDS is to create a plan for retaining and creating better paying jobs, fostering stable and more diversified economies, as well as maintaining and improving the quality of life in Southwest Colorado. Listed in the CEDS, as a part of the Strategic Planning for San Juan County under "Goals, Actions, and Implementation"; Goal 2: is that San Juan County contains a vibrant, growing, and sustainable tourism and recreation industry. This project would help meet that goal. This also balances Goal 1: which is to achieve a diversified, sustainable and growing economy in San Juan County that is compatible with the local environment and small town atmosphere. You may obtain more information regarding the CEDS data on our webpage at [www.scan.org](http://www.scan.org) or call our office for a copy of the report.

San Juan County strongly supports this proposed Federal Legislation and believe that it will provide economic and environmental benefits to their community. We support their efforts to protect the special values of the Hermosa Creek Watershed and the needs and concerns of the environment. If you need any additional information, feel free to contact me at 970-247-9621.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Morlan".

Ed Morlan  
Executive Director

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF:

**ARCHULETA**

**DOLORES**

**LA PLATA**

**MONTEZUMA**

**SAN JUAN**

**SOUTHERN UTE  
INDIAN TRIBE**

**UTE MOUNTAIN UTE  
INDIAN TRIBE**

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# HIGH COUNTRY CITIZENS' ALLIANCE

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office@hccaonline.org • www.hccaonline.org

May 31, 2013

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senator  
458 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

This letter is to express High Country Citizens' Alliance's support for the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act ("Act"). We appreciate your leadership on issues concerning the Thompson Divide and applaud the common-sense and practical approach you have taken in introducing this Act. We also thank you for your efforts to engage all stakeholders – including leaseholders, local governments, ranchers, sportsmen and recreational users – through a robust public comment period as it is important for securing broad support.

High Country Citizens' Alliance ("HCCA") champions the protection, conservation, and preservation of the Gunnison Country, part of which this Act would protect. HCCA has over 650 members, many of which enjoy and use the Thompson Divide Area for a wide range of recreational and sporting activities. As recently noted in Jason Sewell's Guest Commentary in the DenverPost, the Thompson Divide area is a significant economic hub for Western Colorado. Mr. Sewell noted that "[i]n all, ranching, hunting, angling, and recreation activities in this rural area support and sustain nearly 300 jobs and \$30 million a year in economic output for the local economy. That's no small sum."

The consistent and sustainable economy Mr. Sewell discussed depends and thrives upon a beautiful, pristine, and protected Thompson Divide. It is important to continue efforts that will provide this area with permanent protection. Our communities, environment, and economy depend upon it. Accordingly, HCCA supports the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act and efforts to permanently protect this area.

Sincerely,



Allison N. Melton  
Public Lands Director  
High Country Citizens' Alliance  
PO Box 1066  
Crested Butte, CO 81224  
[alli@hccaonline.org](mailto:alli@hccaonline.org)

cc: U.S. Senator Mark Udall  
U.S. Representative Scott Tipton

