

AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603
March 14, 2011

John Wessels Regional Director
Intermountain Region, National Park Service
12795 West Alameda Pkwy.
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Wessels,

Last Thursday I was troubled to read that Mesa County's unemployment rate is currently at 11.9 percent. The communities near Colorado National Monument have been particularly hard hit by the recession and are now looking for ways to create jobs and get back on track.

The local communities surrounding Colorado National Monument have always maintained a cooperative relationship. In 2000, local communities worked hand in glove with congressional leaders to create a national conservation area in the McInnis Canyons. In an effort to create jobs and generate revenue, the local community has endorsed the Quiznos Pro Challenge cycling race. The local organizing committee's initial proposal was denied by the Superintendent of the Monument and subsequently amended for resubmission. The amended cooperative proposal did the following:

- Greatly reduced the number of vehicles permitted in the Monument during the race
- Reduced the race from 3 laps to 2 laps
- Provided that all signage for the event be free-standing and be removed immediately following the race
- Provided clean-up crews hired by the local organizing committee to ensure that the monument is left in the same condition in which it is found

This event has broad bipartisan support and has already been endorsed by Governor Hickenlooper and Senator Udall. It also appears to have strong local support. While not scientific, a Grand Junction Sentinel poll showed that 81% of residents in the area support the race.

Today I spoke with Superintendent Anzelmo regarding the reasons put forth in her denial of the event proposal. While she cited numerous Park Service regulations and other bureaucratic rationale, I still believe that common sense and the spirit of cooperation can easily create a win-win for our community.

I strongly encourage you to consider the Quiznos Pro Challenge Local Organizing Committee's proposal and the much needed job creation that it can bring to the area. Please let me know the status of the second proposal and what you plan to do moving forward. If you would like my office to provide you with any additional information we stand ready to do so.

Sincerely,



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress