



August 1, 2014

The Honorable Jared Polis
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman Polis,

Thank you for sponsoring the Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act and for your leadership on winning permanent protection Colorado's mountain country. The legislation is well-rounded and reflects input and significant support from from a vast array of stakeholders; that is an impressive accomplishment.

Conservation Colorado is pleased to offer our support for H.R. 5311, which balances conservation values with maintaining the vibrant recreational economies in Summit and Eagle counties. The creation of 60,000 acres of new wilderness and additions to the existing Holy Cross, Ptarmigan and Eagles Nest Wildernesses will provide countless recreation opportunities, support local economies and provide important conservation of mid-level alpine environments. The additional designation of a 10,000 acre Recreation Management Area as a companion to the Tenmile Wilderness is a creative designation that achieves a strong conservation gain while allowing for uses that would be otherwise unsuitable in wilderness, such as mountain bike trails and limited vehicular access routes.

We look forward to continuing to partner with your office in building support for this legislation and assisting in advancing it through Congress. We appreciate the effort that your staff have put into this bill already. Together we can work towards realizing the wilderness vision of our Central Mountains region.

Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Maysmith".

Pete Maysmith
Executive Director
Conservation Colorado