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April 30, 2015

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Polis,

On behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, I want to thank you for your commitment to permanently protect the Colorado Central Mountains region. Your leadership on this issue, in this and previous Congresses, is greatly appreciated. Your legislation will preserve some of the nation's wildest lands in Colorado for future generations to enjoy and will enhance the recreational economy in local communities at the same time.

As you know, a wide array of stakeholders in Eagle and Summit Counties, recognizing the ecological and economic value of protecting public lands, has come together to protect Colorado's Central Rocky Mountains. Sportsmen, recreationists, small business owners, and local elected officials would like Congress to designate this area as wilderness and as a national conservation area. These landscapes support a variety of values, including premier wildlife viewing, big game habitat, unparalleled recreational opportunities, and providing clean waters for nearby communities. Permanently protecting these places would benefit job growth and tourism today, and our children's outdoor heritage tomorrow.

We commend your long-standing commitment to the Colorado Central Mountains area and we look forward to working with you as you develop your proposal in the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

Mike Matz
Director, U.S. Public Lands
The Pew Charitable Trusts