



April 13, 2022

The Honorable Joe Neguse
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressmen Neguse and Lamborn:

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our more than 1.4 million members and supporters nationwide, including over 11,000 in Colorado, I am writing to thank you for your leadership on the Colorado National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act (**H.R. 7218**).

Since 1919, NPCA has been the leading voice in protecting and enhancing our National Park System for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. While NPCA cares deeply about our nation's treasured natural areas, we also greatly value the health and welfare of local communities and cultural resources enhanced by NHAs.

Colorado's NHAs are a gift to our living history, culture, and the future of our local communities. When these nationally-significant landscapes are preserved and enhanced with Congressional investment, we all benefit. In order to continue their work, our NHAs depend on a modest amount of federal funding, matched locally dollar-for-dollar with non-federal sources in what is one of the National Park Service's most cost-effective programs. The stories that Colorado's NHAs protect help us understand a fuller narrative of America: from the nation's earliest victory in the war against Hispano educational segregation told by the Sangre de Cristo NHA, to the Poudre River's instrumental role in establishing Western water law told by the Cache la Poudre NHA, to the daily lives of miners and ranchers along the Western Frontier in the South Park NHA, among many more.

Absent Congressional investment, our heritage areas could suffer reduction of staff and services to local communities and even permanent suspension of their operations.

Passage of reauthorization legislation and the continued federal investment is crucial to ensure that the federal government through the National Park Service continues to play a small but important part in these type of multi-party partnerships through the 15-year reauthorization of the program. Reauthorizing funding for the Sangre de Cristo, Cache la Poudre, and South Park NHAs is an investment in cost-effective partnerships that create jobs, inspire local pride, and share America's stories.

Sincerely,

Tracy Coppola

Tracy Coppola, Colorado Senior Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association, Southwest Regional Office