



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMIS SIONERS  
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

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P.O. Box 1507 / 398 Lewis Street / Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147  
Tel (970) 264-8300

April 5, 2022

Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: San Juan River Emergency Slope Stabilization Project

Dear Senator Bennet:

On behalf of Archuleta County, Colorado, please accept this letter of support for the Emergency Slope Stabilization Project. This project is the County's highest priority, due to erosion and undercutting of the San Juan River, a waterway of the United States. The project would provide capital funding for the stabilization of the slope below County Road 500, near term work in the river to protect the slope from additional undercutting, and establish a more sustainable river alignment. Efforts have been underway since November, 2019 to acquire basic project information, engineered drawings, and a cost estimate.

The project is located approximately 8.5 miles east of Highway 151, within the Southern Ute Reservation. The road is maintained by Archuleta County. To the north of the road, the Southern Ute Tribe maintains a natural gas pipeline, which provides gas from the tribe's natural gas wells. The County Road also supports trucks providing gas services to and from the wells. To the south of the road, the Bureau of Reclamation oversees the river's security, as the San Juan River flows into the Navajo Lake, and the Colorado River further downstream. Recent and future erosion of the river bank has created an immediate threat to the stabilization of the river, road, and associated infrastructure.

The County has been in constant contact with the Southern Ute Tribe and the Bureau of Reclamation to try to remedy this crisis. It is the intent of the County to find the necessary funding to secure the road and banks in order to protect the river and lake from debris and silt that would fall into the waterway should the project not be funded. We are pleased to support this project and find much value in providing the Tribe, Bureau, and community with a safe route and to protect the environment of the waterway. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Alvin Schaaf, Chairman



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Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: San Juan River Emergency Slope Stabilization Project

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