



June 13, 2018
Department of the Interior.
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We, as representatives of various local governments and economic development entities in Montrose County, Colorado, are writing in support of your plans to reorganize the various agencies under your jurisdiction to work more efficiently and collaboratively to serve various stakeholder groups and locate closer to the public lands they manage.

We are pleased that members of our Colorado Congressional Delegation, Senator Cory Gardner and Congressman Scott Tipton, have introduced legislation to support these plans and specifically move the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to the Western United States.

We strongly encourage you to consider Grand Junction, Colorado, the county seat of Mesa County, Colorado as the ideal location for relocating key U.S. Department of Interior staff to meet your stated objectives of getting resource managers closer to the communities impacted by their decisions. We understand that the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of Reclamation are all likely to move their headquarters and create regional hubs collaboratively.

Grand Junction is currently home to a significant Department of Energy presence along with hosting multiple Department of Interior offices including Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The United States Department of Agriculture has also chosen Grand Junction to host a significant number of United States Forest Service employees given the community's proximity to the Grand Mesa National Forest and the Uncompahgre National Forest. The longtime presence and success of these offices clearly indicate that Grand Junction, Colorado is a good fit with federal agencies and their missions.

Grand Junction is composed of 1,559,000 acres of public lands and is centrally situated to serve a broader region that includes public lands. We believe that Grand Junction, Colorado should be at the top of your list for the Department of Interior reorganization initiative because of the key factors that make them a hub of the Western Slope. These factors include; a strong transportation network, expanding airport, a proven government facilities model, as well as a higher education facility and programs to meet your needs.

Grand Junction is committed to providing the information and the incentives necessary to make this expanded presence of federal workers a reality and we wholeheartedly supports their efforts.

Sincerely,

Montrose Economic Development Corporation – Sandy Head, Executive Director
Montrose County – Keith Caddy, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Montrose Chamber of Commerce – Chelsea Rosty, Executive Director
Town of Olathe – Rob Smith, Mayor
Montrose Recreation District – Ken Sherbenou, Executive Director
Montrose Memorial Hospital – James Kiser, CEO

Cc: David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of Interior
James Cason, Department of Interior Associate Deputy Secretary
Senator Cory Gardner
Senator Michael Bennett
Congressman Scott Tipton