



September 18, 2025

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
United States Senate
374 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper,

On behalf of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), we write in strong support of H.R. 3838, the Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026. The U.S. House of Representatives passed this measure on September 10, 2025, and we respectfully urge your support as the Senate considers it.

AGNC represents counties and municipalities across Northwest Colorado, including Mesa, Garfield, Moffat, and Rio Blanco Counties, with associate members in Delta, Montrose, and Grand. For decades our region has provided the energy, food, and resources that keep Colorado and this nation strong. Today we face new challenges as coal plants and mines close and as our water supply grows more strained. Procurement reform matters to us because it is the difference between projects sitting in limbo for years or moving forward when they are needed most. For rural communities like ours, that means securing water for families, replacing lost energy jobs, and keeping our local economies alive.

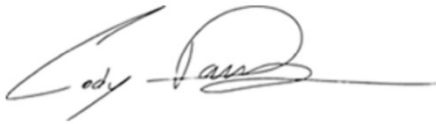
The Uintah Basin Railway showed how easily important projects can be held up. It was tied up for years in litigation over upstream and downstream impacts. Counties in our region, like Garfield, supported the project for its economic benefits, but those voices were overshadowed while opponents drove the process. H.R. 3838 addresses that problem. It keeps a fair and thorough review in place, but it prevents endless delay tactics that leave communities waiting.

The urgency is real. Rangely is running out of time without Wolf Creek Reservoir. Kenney Reservoir has filled with silt, and after 12 years of study Wolf Creek still has not been built. This project is critical to secure safe drinking water, support farms and ranches, and stabilize supply for the White River Basin. At the same time, towns like Craig and Hayden are watching coal plants and mines close. We need replacement energy projects like transmission, advanced fuels, and grid modernization to move faster if our region is going to stay strong. Jordan Cove is another example. While the project was stopped, its contracts were nearly all pre-sold to Japan, reducing their reliance on Chinese LNG and strengthening one of America's closest allies.

Companies remain interested, but they will not move forward unless the process is predictable and efficient.

For us this bill comes down to fairness and common sense. Streamlined procurement means Wolf Creek Reservoir can finally be built to protect families and farms, new energy projects can move forward to keep our economy strong, and opportunities like Jordan Cove can strengthen Colorado and America. This legislation gives rural communities the chance to deliver on projects that matter. We are grateful for your leadership for our state, and we look forward to your support of H.R. 3838.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cody Davis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cody Davis
AGNC Chair
Mesa County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Overton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Overton
AGNC Vice-Chair
Rio Blanco County Commissioner