



July 20, 2022

Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) appreciates your efforts to provide financial support for communities working through energy economy transitions with your National Energy Community Transition Act. The idea of these communities having access to permanent funding not subject to annual appropriations is a positive beginning to assisting communities facing a fiscal cliff as their stable economies are impacted by energy transition.

The endowment funding proposed in the bill will provide critical support to local governments as the see property tax revenues decline due to mine and power plant closures. The NW Colorado coal region is projected to lose as much as \$621,433,561 in GDP through total closure of the coal industry in that region. Clearly, the communities in the region will need significant amounts of support to address a loss of this magnitude; the National Energy Community Transition Act can certainly address a portion of this massive decline.

The bill provides additional support in the form of grants, technical assistance, and capacity building. These are all important items NW Colorado energy communities have a need for; given the massive loss in GDP for many impacted regions, we support the competitive grant concept but urge that the rulemaking for these grants does not require community matching funds as the community coffers are already becoming substantially depleted. We also appreciate that this bill is inclusive of oil and gas industry transitions with generous forward and backward-looking provisions as our region is already feeling the effects of these job and revenue losses.

AGNC communities support your efforts to address the inequalities being thrust upon NW Colorado energy communities through the National Energy Transition Act; we hope to collaborate with you and Congress as it moves forward to make sure it provides robust assistance for energy communities here in Colorado as well as across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike Samson'.

Mike Samson
AGNC Chairman
Garfield County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Nichols'.

Chris Nichols
AGNC Vice-Chairman
Craig City Councilman