



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO
P.O. Box 100, Parachute, CO 81635 Phone: 970-285-7630

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Michael Bennet
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) supports S. 344 introduced in the Senate by you and Senator Burr last week. AGNC is a group of local governments representing five counties and municipalities in Northwestern Colorado.

The AGNC region is home to significant natural gas resources; production of this valuable commodity is a vital economic driver for the Western Slope and Colorado. We have supported efforts that will increase the use of natural gas for transportation domestically as well as efforts that would open foreign markets to the use of natural gas from Western Colorado.

It is our belief that S. 344 is an important step in making natural gas a more competitive choice for transportation if the tax system for liquefied natural gas (LNG) is placed on equal footing with diesel fuel under the federal highway excise tax. The proposed tax system could provide an incentive for fleet operators to utilize more LNG fueled vehicles which could provide several economic benefits to their businesses. If fleets utilize more LNG, perhaps that demand would improve the economics related to the development of natural gas in our region thereby helping to smooth out some of the dips in energy production cycles we experience related to the industry.

We further support efforts to provide domestic solutions to the increased international demand for LNG. Colorado is uniquely positioned to respond to that demand without negatively impacting our local economies. Indeed, providing natural gas to foreign markets would serve to improve the economy in Colorado and particularly in our region while providing jobs and affordable energy prices for our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Samson in black ink.

Mike Samson
Chairman
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Jeff Eskelson in black ink.

Jeff Eskelson
Vice-Chairman

Handwritten signature of Martin Chazen in black ink.

Martin Chazen
Treasurer