



November 8, 2020

U.S Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
Denver Region
1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 431
Denver, Colorado 80204

To whom it may concern:

As Mayor of the City of Craig, I would like to express the full collaborative support of The City of Craig and Moffat County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Assistance to Coal Communities Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 public health emergency which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

The scheduled closures of the Tri-State power plant, Colowyo Mine and Trapper Mine will be economically devastating for Moffat County and Craig with a loss of 472 direct jobs. Additionally, it is estimated that for 2019, over 44% of Moffat County's assessed tax value was represented in properties associated with coal. The Yampa River Corridor Project will address this compounding economic distress through the creation of infrastructure to take advantage of the existing river and outdoor recreation assets unique to Moffat County and the City of Craig. Building upon these assets will serve to benefit new business attraction, existing business retention and expansion. This project not only intends to enhance the vitality of our local economy, but is believed to provide for future employment opportunities, support livable wages and a solid standard of living.

The City of Craig has committed \$397,916 from our current 2020 budget as our cash match to the Yampa River Corridor Project and seek to allocate additional funding for our upcoming 2021 budget cycle. Our committed 2020 cash match funds are unencumbered and available for use upon execution of this letter. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Jarrod Ogden
Mayor, City of Craig
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