

October 8, 2021
City of Craig
300 W. 4th St.
Craig, CO 81625

Economic Development Manager Shannon Scott is writing on behalf of The City of Craig to support the multi-regional Build Back Better Regional Challenge application spearheaded by Colorado Region 10 on behalf of Western Colorado in conjunction with the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado.

Western Colorado has been in general economic/income stagnation compared to the rest of Colorado and the nation since 2008 and is currently being highly impacted by the transition away from coal and the associated mining and power generation industries. The projects put forward for the Colorado Western Slope Coal Communities Build Back Better Project will epitomize the intent and fulfill the need of this EDA initiative, as we diversify away from natural resource extraction to more dynamic, sustainable, and resilient industries to fuel our future economic and employment growth.

The projects presented are instrumental in creating and building out the infrastructure necessary to diversify our economies and make them more competitive and dynamic for the future. The challenges for economic development in our regions are real given our historical natural resource reliance and the vastness of our geography. The valuation of natural resource properties/industries has declined by half in the last decade, and our 375,000 people spread out across mountainous terrain, requires outside resources to help jump-start our modernization of industries.

Thank you for seriously considering the Colorado Western Slope Coal Communities Build Back Better Project application and for implementing these important economic development initiatives on behalf of our nation. In the meantime, if there are any additional topics or questions concerning our fervent support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank You,

Shannon Scott – Economic Development Manager
Craig, CO
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