

Dear Representative Tipton,

As the governing body of students at Western Colorado University we wanted to send you a letter to tell you about how much we care about policies, current and future, regarding climate change. The Gunnison Valley is home to some of the most cherished and incredible outdoor settings in the great state of Colorado. As residents, students, and recreators of Gunnison, we believe that the ecosystems and citizens of our town should be considered when discussing the dangerous and drastic effects of Climate Change.

In this valley, students, families and athletes ski, snowboard, and ride snow mobiles at Mount Crested Butte and the wonderful expansive backcountry. In the summers they also fish, paddleboard, and swim in Blue Mesa Reservoir and Gunnison River. These are just a few of the ways they can be active in the outdoors for fun, but this does not cover the expansive research opportunities we can explore through school and being so accessible to nature. We have extensive Environment and Sustainability, Wildlife Biology, and Recreation and Outdoor Education undergraduate and graduate programs through Western.

There is also a major farming and ranching community here in Gunnison. While they do not utilize the environment in the same way the students do, we firmly believe that their voice also matters as they are key foundations to our agricultural economy. Their political views might differ from ours', but climate change is a non-partisan issue. We hope that the different voices of the House can collaborate and work together to find a workable solution and help save the sacred valley of Gunnison.

One solution that we would like to lobby for and suggest is the Carbon Dividend Act as introduced by the Citizens' Climate Lobby. This act places a fee on the carbon content of fuels and circulates the money back into the American economy for law abiding citizens. It places the fee on companies with major fossil fuel emissions that operate within or import into the United States. As constituents and citizens of Gunnison, we hope you consider this proposal as it is effective in fueling the American Economy and lowering the harmful Carbon emissions.

On the behalf of Western Colorado University and Gunnison, we would like to thank for your guidance of our community within the House. We understand that it is by no means an easy or peaceful job, but we trust your judgements and abilities to navigate our population and country into a bright and bountiful future.

Sincerely,

The Student Body of Western Colorado University

