



March 14th, 2016

Shaun McGrath
Regional Administrator - Region 8
Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wynkoop St
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. McGrath,

Colorado's public lands and national parks, with their stunning views and pristine environments, are critical to the state's \$13.2 billion outdoor-recreation economy. Every year, 65% of Colorado residents participate in outdoor recreation, and tens of thousands of visitors from other states and countries come to visit and enjoy our stunning vistas and landscapes.

Colorado is celebrated for having some of our nation's most iconic national parks and recreational areas. Our state is graced by a diversity of landscapes, from soaring mountain peaks to red-rock canyons. Our outdoor-recreation industry directly supports approximately 125,000 jobs, and brings tourists and visitors from all over the world into our natural landscapes and those of our neighboring states.

Unfortunately, public lands in Colorado and across the Southwest are threatened by dangerous sources of pollution that harm the very environment our growing outdoor-recreation economy depends on. In particular, emissions from Rocky Mountain Power's Hunter and Huntington coal-fired power plants in Utah put Colorado's clean air and critically important outdoor-recreation economy at risk.

That is why [Protect Our Winters](#), the [Sierra Club](#), and the Colorado business community are writing to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to safeguard our air and our lands with strong and fair reductions in coal pollution by requiring modern, industry-standard pollution controls on the Hunter and Huntington coal-fired plants. We join with many of our colleagues in Utah's outdoor-recreation economy in calling for these strong protections for our communities and livelihoods.

Emissions from these two plants are a regional threat, known to degrade air quality in nine Class 1 areas across the West. In addition to Utah's iconic five national parks, the EPA has shown that haze-causing pollution from the Hunter and Huntington plants threatens some

of Colorado's finest public lands, including Mesa Verde and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Parks and the Flat Tops Wilderness.

This level of pollution is unacceptable and must be addressed. Requiring Rocky Mountain Power to install affordable pollution controls on these two plants will reduce dangerous haze-causing emissions and protect the health of Colorado's national parks, communities, and economy.

Coloradans and their neighbors in surrounding states deserve the same protections from coal pollution that the rest of America enjoys. It's time for the Environmental Protection Agency to protect clean air and public lands in the West by guaranteeing strong and equal protection from coal pollution. In doing so, EPA can ensure the sanctity of these majestic places and support the outdoor-recreation industry and the local Colorado businesses that rely on these threatened Class 1 areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Co-signed,

Protect Our Winters

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