



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 – Cody Davis 970-244-1605
District 2 – Bobbie Daniel 970-244-1604
District 3 – JJ Fletcher 970-244-1606

February 10, 2026

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Hart Senate Office Building
120 Constitution Ave NE
Suite SH-316
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Letter of Support for Reauthorization of Grand Junction Disposal Cell

Dear Senator Hickenlooper:

The Board of County Commissioners for Mesa County is pleased to write today to express our support for a bill to reauthorize the Grand Junction Disposal Cell, the Department of Energy’s (“DOE”) low-level radioactive material disposal site in Mesa County. This site ensures the safe, long-term disposal of uranium mill tailings from mill sites and properties in Western Colorado.

Mill tailings, a by-product of uranium mining, were commonly available to private citizens and contractors for use in concrete and mortar, as fill material, and as bedding for utilities and roads throughout the region. However, once discovered to be hazardous to human health, the DOE began removal and remediation efforts to eliminate further contamination of soil and groundwater, reduce exposure to radiation and radon gas, and ensure a safer environment for future generations.

It is imperative that this disposal site remain operational as a safe disposal option for low-level radioactive material. The Grand Junction Disposal cell offers a regulated, secure location, situated on a thick deposit of impermeable Mancos Shale, and positioned away from residences. We encourage Congress to protect the health of our citizens and environment by reauthorizing the continued operation of the Grand Junction Disposal Cell until it reaches capacity.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of JJ Fletcher in black ink.

JJ Fletcher
Chair, Board of County Commissioners

Handwritten signature of Cody Davis in black ink.

Cody Davis
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Bobbie Daniel in black ink.

Bobbie Daniel
Commissioner

Cc: Todd Hollenbeck, Mesa County Administrator
Todd Starr, Mesa County Attorney
Mesa County Administration