



FRUITA

COLORADO

February 19, 2026

U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper
Hart Senate Office Building
120 Constitution Ave NE
Suite SH-316
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act of 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the City of Fruita, I write to express our strong support for the Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act, legislation introduced by Senator John Hickenlooper to extend the authorization of the Department of Energy's uranium mill tailings disposal site in Mesa County until the site reaches its designed capacity. The Grand Junction disposal site plays a critical role in protecting public health, environmental safety, and economic stability for western Colorado. As the only federally authorized uranium mill tailings disposal facility in the State of Colorado, the site provides a safe option for the long-term management of radioactive materials generated from cleanup and remediation activities.

Allowing the site's authorization to expire before its designed capacity is reached would create unnecessary risk for local governments, property owners, and communities throughout the region. Closure would force contaminated materials to be transported out of state at significantly higher cost, placing a disproportionate financial burden on private landowners and public entities alike. These increased costs raise serious concerns about improper handling or illegal dumping of radioactive material.

This legislation simply allows the facility to continue operating under current law until its approved capacity is reached. Congress has previously recognized the importance of this site through bipartisan reauthorization, most recently in 2019. Reauthorizing the Grand Junction disposal site until it reaches full capacity is essential to maintaining that commitment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your continued attention to the health and safety of communities in western Colorado.

Thank you,

Shannon Vassen

Shannon Vassen, City Manager

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