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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 50 Colorado Breweries, Distilleries, and Wineries Urge Colorado Senator Cory Gardner to Protect America's Arctic Refuge

Denver, Colorado - This week, as focus in Denver is on the annual Great American Beer Festival, another gathering of Colorado craft beverage makers took place as over 50 breweries, wineries, cideries, and distilleries from across the state of Colorado sent a [letter](#) to Senator Cory Gardner asking him to protect and preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by leaving the Refuge closed to oil and gas drilling.

Senator Gardner serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources and Budget Committees. This spring, both the House of Representatives and President Trump included similar instructions that would authorize drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge through the federal budget process. Soon, the Senate Budget Committee may take one step closer to fossil fuel development by including Arctic National Wildlife Refuge drilling in their fiscal 2018 budget instructions.

Colorado Senator Cory Gardner has been vocal about his support for public lands throughout his campaigns, tenure, and at town halls this past August and September. The Senator's website states: "Public lands are some of our most cherished national treasures, and as a fifth-generation Coloradan I understand the importance of preserving iconic landscapes in my state and across the nation. We must be good stewards of our natural environment, and this includes being responsible for the lands placed into parks, historic sites and trails, monuments, and recreation areas. The wildlife and wilderness that can be seen within these areas is something that cannot be taught in our classrooms. We need to work together to help preserve and promote these sites for the millions of visitors each year."

Colorado's breweries, wineries, and distilleries are a powerful economic engine that creates jobs and revenue for many communities throughout the state and beyond. Colorado has over 350 craft breweries in 94 different cities, over 90 distilleries, 20 cideries, and more than 140 wineries. Together, these industries record a collective total economic benefits of \$346 million to the state's economy while employing over 10,000 people.¹⁻⁴

¹⁻⁴ <https://coloradobeer.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Colorado-Brewers-Guild-Economic-Impact-Study-Final-Report-061416-1.pdf>
<http://www.denverpost.com/2017/03/23/whiskey-distilleries-to-tour-in-colorado/>
<http://kdvr.com/2016/07/04/craft-distillery-industry-booming-in-colorado/>
http://coloradowine.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CWB-143-Fact-Sheet-R1_2017.pdf

The letter states: “The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is unique and unspoiled, and we have a moral responsibility to preserve and protect it for future generations. Please listen to our substantial business voice in our state and do not allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.”

“Though it might seem unrelated, many of us in the Colorado Craft Beer Industry see the value in public lands and want to do our part to protect them across the country. As Americans, Coloradans recognize that our public lands don’t stop at the state border. We value the legacy and heritage of our country’s public lands nationwide – including in Alaska,” said Corey Odell, with Odell Brewing Company based in Fort Collins.

According to the State of the Rockies Conservation in the West’s annual polls from 2015 to 2017, many people live in West for the freedom to access public lands like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Coloradans treasure healthy public lands because they contribute to strong communities, protect the natural environment, attract businesses and talent, and provide treasured outdoor recreation opportunities:

- 84% of Coloradans say that the ability to live near and recreate on public lands like national parks and national forests is a factor in their decision to live in the West
- 98% of Coloradans say that public lands are an "essential" part of the state’s economy
- 72% of Coloradans view public lands managed by federal agencies as “American places belonging to everyone in the nation”

Shana Yates, Brand Manager with Bristol Brewing Company said, “The majority of people who have moved to and visit Colorado come because of the state’s recreation and beautiful public lands. These visitors and residents also visit breweries, wineries and distilleries across the state. We owe it to our customers to protect these lands for generations to come – both here in Colorado and across the country.”

“One of the most patriotic things we can do is to continue to protect America’s Public lands across the country from Rocky Mountain National Park to the Great Smoky Mountains to The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,” said Carolee Corey Co-Owner of Decadent Saint Winery in Boulder.

Chris Fish, co-owner of Telluride Brewing Company said, “Our elected officials have a job to protect and preserve our national history and natural beauty through national parks, wildlife refuges, monument, forests, and other public lands. Drilling our best public lands including America’s Arctic Refuge is a threat to our heritage. Our public lands are our legacy – they are irreplaceable.”

Jessica Newhall, owner of Steamboat Whiskey Company said, “The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America’s last undeveloped frontiers and has stood for decades as a symbol of our public lands heritage. Drilling and the related industrial infrastructure that would come with fossil fuel development would have devastating impacts. This isn’t a partisan issue, rather protection of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge has been supported by Democrats and Republicans for decades because protecting America’s Arctic Refuge is just the right thing to do.”

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Letter Signers:

Animas Brewing Company

Durango, Colorado

Augustina's Winery

Nederland, Colorado

Avalanche Brewing Company

Silverton, Colorado

Bigsby's Folly Craft Winery

Denver, Colorado

Black Sky Brewery

Denver, Colorado

Boathouse Distillery

Salida, Colorado

Bristol Brewing Company

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Carboy Winery

Littleton, Colorado

Cerebral Brewing

Denver, Colorado

Colorado Gold Distillery

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dead Hippie Brewing

Sheridan, Colorado

Decadent Saint Winery

Boulder, Colorado

Elevation Beer Company

Poncha Springs, Colorado

Elevation 5003 Distillery

Fort Collins, Colorado

Factotum Brewhouse

Denver, Colorado

Horse & Dragon Brewing Company

Fort Collins, Colorado

I HOP IPA

Broomfield, Colorado

The Intrepid Sojourner Beer Project

Denver, Colorado

Jagged Mountain Craft Brewery

Denver, Colorado

Laughing Leprechaun Meadery

Loveland, Colorado

Longtucky Spirits

Longmont, Colorado

Mad Jacks Mountain Brewery

Bailey, Colorado

Marble Distilling Company

Carbondale, Colorado

McClellan's Brewing Company

Fort Collins, Colorado

Moonlight Pizza & Brewpub

Salida, Colorado

Mountain Tap Brewery

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Odell Brewing Company

Fort Collins, Colorado

Old Town Distilling Co.

Fort Collins, Colorado

Pagosa Brewing Company & Grill

Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Purpose Brewing and Cellars

Fort Collins, Colorado

Rails End Beer Company

Broomfield, Colorado

Ratio Beerworks

Denver, Colorado

Sanitas Brewing Company

Boulder, Colorado

Snowbank Brewing

Fort Collins, Colorado

Soul Craft Brewing

Salida, Colorado

Spirits of the Rockies Distillery
Pueblo, Colorado

St. Vrain Cidery
Longmont, Colorado

Steamboat Whiskey Company
Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Stem Ciders
Denver, CO

Still Cellars
Longmont, Colorado

Strongwater
Denver, Colorado

Telluride Brewing Company
Telluride, Colorado

Twenty Brew Taphouse
Westminster, Colorado

Upslope Brewing Company
Boulder, Colorado

Vino Colorado Winery
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Wibby Brewing
Longmont, Colorado

Wild Cider
Firestone, Colorado