



RIO BLANCO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY ADMIN BUILDING, 200 MAIN
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April 15, 2016

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, we would like to make known our extreme dissatisfaction with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's recent denial of the Jordan Cove LNG Project and Pacific Connector Pipeline. The denial of project is not only a political statement, but moreover it doesn't follow established precedent, proving that this project was handled differently than previous projects similar in nature.

Rio Blanco County is highly dependent upon the natural resource extraction and oil and gas industries. Sixty percent of Rio Blanco County's total assessed value is attributed to these industries, with the top fifteen taxpayers being industry related companies. Federal Mineral Lease and Severance Tax payments are critical to maintaining local infrastructure, and without additional production, these payments will not be realized by Rio Blanco County. Having the ability to continue production and supply these resources to the world is paramount to the existence of rural communities in Northwest Colorado. Without additional export facilities and servicing pipelines, the economic state of Rio Blanco County will continue to suffer.

We know you are aware of the positive impacts this project would have on Colorado, Western Colorado in particular, but we want it to be clear that this specific project has the ability to not only provide another option for Piceance Basin gas sales, but also help our ever degrading economic state. Rio Blanco County is experiencing extremely hard times, with employee layoffs happening on a weekly basis, and the Jordan Cove facility could help our communities overcome these economic hardships in the future.

We encourage you to support this project in any way possible, and help the Jordan Cove LNG project move forward. Please contact us if you have any questions concerning our request, and we would appreciate an update upon learning any new information. We can be reached by email at bocc@rbc.us.

Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners, Rio Blanco County

Shawn Bolton, Chairman

Jeff Eskelson

Jon D. Hill