Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to ask you to make the Federal Designation Legislation a priority. It was a tenant of the Mountain Accord, you said you were going to make it a priority for the past several years and there has been virtually no meeting on it and absolutely no movement on this foundational issue of the agreement and purpose of the CWC.

The purpose of the Mountain Accord and the CWC was to advance a comprehensive vision for the Wasatch, to ensure coordination of decisions — and protect the environment and our watershed. This couldn’t be further from what is currently taking place. A number of fractured and damaging propositions are confronting the resource. Were the legislation in place outcomes and decisions would be much different.

Your inactions have harmed the Wasatch. Wilderness boundaries have been removed, transportation systems are discombobulated and not integrated, harmful fee proposals are being advanced that cause inequities in who will be able to access the resource, proposals that will damage our watershed are going forward, the USFS continues to amend its plan - waiving management prescriptions that were put in place to protect the ecosystem, the allocation of dispersed recreation to developed recreation is being assaulted by commercial and development interests. This is not the comprehensive mechanism for management that was promised.

As such, we ask you to expeditiously priorities, for real, work on the NCRA.

Priority actions include, but not limited to:

⁃ Make the legislation a National Conservation Area, as no conservation & recreation area is currently in existence;

⁃ Rebrand the title of the act to resonate with our values - CWNCRA is alphabet soup

⁃ Re-engage CWC’s lobbyists at State and Federal Levels

⁃ Bring legislation into conformance with issues that are no longer relevant (ie. land exchanges, wilderness removals, etc.)

⁃ Work to come up with a better fee regime than what is being pursued with REA and tolling and resort parking (or comprehensively come up with a fee structure to access regardless of designation)

⁃ Comprehensively look at activities that are happening in the CWC study area and address challenges that are currently underway or anticipated

⁃ Work with members of other states if Utah’s delegation won’t engage with the desires of local and regional governments.

⁃ incorporate analysis from ongoing efforts (ie. climate, transportation, recreation, etc)

There is no other issue at the CWC that touches every other system of the accord and of the stakeholders. This critical legislation will help not just the environment, but recreation, transportation, and our economy, by protecting a natural system that is truly cherished and unique.

We’d welcome further discussion and coordination with you. It is unfortunate this wasn’t in place years ago — it appears to be for lack of trying. Make this a priority. Make the Wasatch a priority. Make our water and wildlife a priority — rather than something that is perpetually compromised.