

## **SUBMITTING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN 5 EASY STEPS**

- 1. Find submission guidelines for your local newspaper.**
  - a. Often, a google search for “letters to the editor Durango Herald” (or whatever the name of the publication you’re looking for,) is the easiest way.
  - b. Most require letters of no more than 300 words, and require you to include your name and phone number/email address for verification purposes.
- 2. Write your letter by choosing a handful of the relevant points below, putting them into your own words and using local examples to help strengthen your case for advancing the GORP Act.**
  - a. Be sure to encourage action such as urging “Congress to advance this important legislation”
  - b. or “continued community support and involvement in the legislative process.”
- 3. Submit your letter to the appropriate party with a general statement of what it is. Typically a Word doc attachment is preferred.**
- 4. Please email [info@GORPact.org](mailto:info@GORPact.org) to let the campaign know your letter has been submitted (we will track publication, but it doesn’t hurt to email us a link when it publishes).**
- 5. Once it’s published, share it across social media to help us get the word out!**

### **HERE ARE SOME TALKING POINTS FOR YOU TO PUT INTO YOUR OWN WORDS TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO PASS THE GORP ACT:**

- State your support up front and reference the bill introduction in the U.S. Senate (Sept. 26, 2024). (Connect it to news coverage of the announcement if possible.)
- Emphasize what a good thing this is for the community and whatever your personal interests are.
- Highlight examples of benefits to the community, economy and your specific interest.
- Emphasize the broad community input and collaboration, “deep and widespread support,” more than 10 years in the making.
  - Example: “The GORP Act is the result of a community-driven initiative more than 10 years in the making that has garnered deep and widespread support in and around Gunnison County and across the state.”
- Emphasis on “balance” or a “balanced bill” that’s good for everyone.
  - Example: “The bill strikes a thoughtful balance with benefits to wildlife, critical watersheds, wide variety of outdoor recreation, cultural preservation of Tribal lands and Gunnison’s historic ranching community.”
  - “Protects the enduring character of the Gunnison Country for future generations”
  - “Legislation that truly represents the values and consensus of the community”
- Broad support (as well as broad input):
  - Example: “In addition to the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, the GORP Act has the formal support of Commissions from neighboring Pitkin, Hinsdale, Delta, Ouray and Saguache counties, along with multiple surrounding

municipal governments, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and dozens of local businesses and organizations.”

- Call for action: Urge Congress to advance this important legislation quickly.
  - Encourage continued community involvement/support
- Link to GORPact.org

#### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Don't worry if you can't hit every talking point on the list in 300 words or less (but if they give you more space, try to use it). Using your own voice and experiences will go a long way. Simply getting more letters out there is the most important thing.
- On the first reference, refer to the bill as: the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act.
- Subsequent references as the GORP Act.
- Credit both Senator Michael Bennet and Senator John Hickenlooper as co-sponsors of the bill.
- Ideally the paper you submit to will have published a story on the GORP Act introduction, which is always a good idea to reference. But it is okay to submit letters to papers that missed the story – it will just require some additional explanation and possibly a link to the GORPact.org website or Sen. Bennet's announcement - <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?id=32137EB9-B6BD-4D-CD-AF5E-34E81AE7DC62>
- It's election season, and the papers are getting a lot of submissions. Try to be timely (asap), but patient, since there may already be a long line in front of you.
- Thank you!

**Here's a list of publications to target**, more or less in order of priority. The first list includes papers that published stories on the GORP Act introduction, followed by a list of important regional outlets that did not pick up the story, and a shorter list tier 3 papers in the region that are still worth considering:

**The Denver Post** - <https://www.denverpost.com/submit-letter/>

**Montrose Daily Press** - [https://www.montrosepress.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter/](https://www.montrosepress.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)

**Aspen Times** - <https://stage.aspentimes.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor/>

**Glenwood Post Independent** -

<https://www.postindependent.com/submissions/letter-to-the-editor/>

**Summit Daily News** - <https://www.summitdaily.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor/>

**Vail Daily** - <https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor/>

**Gunnison Times** - <https://www.gunnisontimes.com/contact-us/>

**Crested Butte News** - <https://crestedbuttenews.com/contact/>

**Ark Valley Voice** - <https://arkvalleyvoice.com/ark-valley-voice-opinion-submissions/>

**Tier 2** (no coverage but strong regional circulation:

**Grand Junction Daily Sentinel** -

[https://www.gjsentinel.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter\\_editor/](https://www.gjsentinel.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/)

**Durango Herald** - <https://www.durangoherald.com/letter-to-the-editor/>

**Colorado Springs Gazette/Out There** - <https://gazette.com/editor/>

**Aspen Daily News** - [https://www.aspendailynews.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter\\_editor/](https://www.aspendailynews.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/)

**Tier 3:**

**Delta County Independent**

**Ouray County Plaindealer**

**Telluride Daily Planet**