**World Speed Record Attempt**

**from Leadville, CO to Death Valley, CA**

**North America’s Highest Airport to its Lowest**

**Statements and Endorsements**

“By air you have a sense of space in the West and how our land has been carved by water, wind and the powerful forces of nature,” said U.S. Senator Cory Gardner. “In the solitude of flight, you can reflect on the significance of water resources and the critical importance of management on the ground,” he added.

**--U.S. Senator Cory Gardner**

“I admire Kent Holsinger’s quest to break a world speed record for a flight between the nation’s highest airport in Leadville, Colorado and its lowest airport in Death Valley National Park, California. During this adventure, Kent will be have the chance to view and promote some of most pristine public lands in Colorado and the Southwest. I wish Kent the best of luck in his endeavor!”

**--Congressman Scott Tipton**

“Ken Chlouber and his crazy vision to invite thousands of people from across the country to run 100 miles at over 10,000’ saved Leadville.  He was ‘outdoor recreation economy’ before it was cool, transforming a mining town entirely dependent upon global commodity prices in to a place where you can test your mettle against the clock and Mother Nature, knowing you will have Ken and Merilee (Maupin, his business partner in LT100) doing everything they can to get you across the finish line.”

**--Chris Castilian**

“Flying over the nation’s National Forests was once punctuated by healthy green forests.  Now, as a result of long periods of reduced forest management, the Forests are characterized by vast expanses of dead trees from insects, disease, and wildfires.  The situation in our National Forests is so bad, Forests across the Rockies now emit more carbon into the atmosphere than what they take in – turning from carbon sinks to carbon sources.  Harvesting trees to capture that carbon, reduce the risk of mortality, and to create healthy forests along with healthy communities is a much more sustainable solution.”

--**Ben Wudtke, Executive Director, Intermountain Forest Association.**

“We are lucky in Colorado to be the only state in the country where our lottery proceeds are invested by Great Outdoors Colorado in our state’s parks, trails, rivers, wildlife, and open spaces.  This year we will invest over $68 million with our stakeholders and partners – Colorado Parks and Wildlife, local governments across the state, nonprofit land trusts, and other partnering entities. These organizations leverage GOCO funding to accomplish amazing conservation and recreation projects, which lead to a better quality of life, improved health, and stronger local economies for Coloradans and their communities.”

**--Chris Castilian, Executive Director, Great Outdoors Colorado**

“Kent is one of the West’s best natural resources, water and energy attorneys, and as a pilot, he’s the perfect person for this mission to draw attention to the multiple uses of public lands.” Everyone focuses on the parks and recreation areas, but there are vast working landscapes across the West where oil and natural gas development sustains rural communities and provides billions in funding to states and counties for schools, infrastructure, and conservation. He’ll be flying over lands protected by the Land and Water Conservation Fund that is solely funded by oil and natural gas production.”

**--Kathleen Sgamma, President, Western Energy Alliance**

“As Kent Holsinger makes his flight from Leadville to Furnace Creek, oil and natural gas will make it possible. From the fuel driving his propellers and the manufactured steel and composites that make up his aircraft, to the vast number of development sites that he will fly over along his path, oil and natural gas is a critical component to his success. Kent’s bird’s-eye-view of the resources we use every day, as well as the mountains and wildlife that we all cherish, will be front and center on his historic journey.”

**--Dan Haley, Pres. and C.E.O., Colorado Oil and Gas Assoc. (COGA)**

“Mike Strang, who served Western Colorado in the Statehouse and in Congress, often campaigned on a simple two-issue theme: ‘Don’t let ‘em raise your taxes, and don’t let ‘em take your water.’”

**--Greg Walcher, former Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources.**

“In Colorado, snowmelt runoff from our mountain watersheds typically provides 2/3 of the annual streamflow in 3 months or ¼ of the year. Lake Powell is the Upper Basin’s water bank. Colorado is the principle source of water to satisfy the Colorado River Compact’s assumed 15.0 MAF of flow per year at the Lee Ferry stream gage below Lake Powell.”

**--Hal Simpson, former Colorado State Engineer**

“The Compact dividing water among the seven basin states equally distributed water between the upper and lower basins,”

--**Rod Kuharich, former director, Colorado Water Conservation Board.**

“As Kent leaves the Leadville airport, he will be flying over the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project which planted the seed for Colorado’s Instream Flow Program. At the time, there was no way under Colorado water law to protect the streamflow bypasses required of the Project. This resulted in passage of the Instream Flow Law (SC 73-93) in 1973. Since that time, Colorado’s Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program, administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), has provided streamflow protection to over 9,000 miles of streams and lake levels for over 400 natural lakes. Kent’s flight will take him over many of these protected resources.”

**--Dan Merriman, Former Chief (ret.), Stream and Lake Protection Section, CWCB.**

"The natural resources Kent's flight will pass over are a great reminder of what makes Colorado great. Our natural resources and robust ag economy helped define our states boundaries, its economy and its western heritage. Our farmers and ranchers still grow food with resources developed by the pioneering spirit of Colorado's first settlers. Without our water, agriculture and mining, Colorado would not be the vibrant and dynamic place it is today, 143 years after statehood."

**--Chad Vorthmann, Executive Vice President, Colorado Farm Bureau.**

“At altitude, you can see the rivers, reservoirs and small tributaries that fuel our natural resources and food production for the world.  Without this vital nutrient, our economy, environment and communities would wither away.  As we care for ourselves, we must care for our lifeblood - Water!”

--**Terry Fankhauser, Exec. V.P., Colorado Cattlemens Association.**

“The Uncompahgre Project is one of the first five Reclamation projects completed in 1908. Also know as the “Gunnison Tunnel Project”, the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users diverts water from the Gunnison River through the Gunnison Tunnel to the Uncompahgre River to irrigate over 83,000 acres in Montrose and Delta Counties in Western Colorado. The project supports over 3500 shareholders and makes the desert bloom. The Water Users salute your endeavor and wishes you a successful flight.”

--**Steve Anderson, Manager Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association.**

“The Colorado Wool Growers Association is excited about Kent Holsinger’s upcoming world speed record attempt. In addition to being a great pilot, Kent’s extensive background in natural resources management makes this a very exciting trip indeed. This historic flight will highlight our multiple-use public lands that are a shared resource for recreation, wildlife habitat, mining and timber utilization, and livestock grazing. Providing food and fiber from natural renewable resources, sheep and cattle ranchers across the West are important stewards of our public lands, as they rely upon, and carefully manage livestock grazing allotments on both U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We look forward to following Kent’s remarkable journey!”

**--Bonnie Brown, Exec. Dir., Colorado Wool Growers Association.**

The vision of the Colorado Mining Association, is for “Americans [to] recognize and embrace the importance and benefit of responsible mining to sustain and improve everyone’s quality of life for generations to come,”[[1]](#footnote-1)

--**Stan Dempsey**, **President, Colorado Mining Association**.

“The route Kent selected for this exciting endeavor highlights our many beautiful landscapes and abundant natural resources in the West,” said Dave Lock, Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association. “Arizona’s electric co-op members live amongst these great places, and enjoy all they have to offer. For instance, water from the iconic Colorado River creates clean electricity that is vital to the ranchers, farmers, tribal utilities and small towns and businesses in rural Arizona.”

**--Dave Lock, C.E.O., Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association**

“The Colorado River Energy Distributor’s Association (CREDA) believes the solution to balancing competing environmental and societal needs lies in carefully managing reservoir operations, while considering variable hydrologic and economic conditions.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

“Colorado has long been defined by its conservation ethic. Landowners – mostly farmers and ranchers – have stewarded the natural resources that make up Colorado for more than 150 years to the benefit of our generation and future generations. Private land conservation plays an important role in the continued viability of Colorado’s agricultural economy, integrity of rural communities, preservation of iconic views, and the health of wildlife populations.”

--**Erik Glenn, Exec. Dir., Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust.**

"As you make aviation history, you will be flying from the highest point in America to the lowest, but both Leadville and Death Valley figure prominently in the history of west, the settlement of which was made possible, by mining.  From the early days of silver mining in Leadville to the Twenty Mule teams that carried borax from the mines in California, mining was and remains an important pillar of western U. S. economies.  Good luck and safe journeys!"

**--Stuart Sanderson, former President, Colorado Mining Association**

“Nevada mines responsibly produce 20 metals and minerals that are essential in the 21st century, especially in the production of renewable energy. Wind turbines require copper; solar panels are coated with silver; and batteries need lithium. Nevada is the only state in the country that currently mines all three elements. The Nevada mining industry is proud to be part of the state’s heritage and especially proud to be foundational to its future.”

--**Dr. Dana Bennet, Executive Director, Nevada Mining Association.**

Kent Holsinger

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1. <https://www.coloradomining.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, “The Colorado River Storage Project---Over 60 Years of Renewable Energy in the West.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)