

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office  
Washington, DC 20510



***Re: Support S.1117 - the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act***

Dear Senator Bennet:

On behalf of the town of Basalt, we are asking for your support of S.1117, the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act of 2017, which is currently pending in the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

Basalt is known for its outdoor water sports including Gold Medal trout fishing in the Frying Pan River. We are also a hub for mountain biking, as we are situated in the heart of the Roaring Fork Valley. Like many other tourist driven cities, we need to maintain and expand upon our local capital and public works infrastructure to remain competitive.

As you may know, municipalities use tax-exempt debt to finance various capital and public works projects. Passage of S.1117 will enable us to continue cost-efficient funding of necessary transportation, outdoor recreation, and historic facility improvements.

S.1117 will help remedy problems created by a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule that required money market funds to switch from a fixed net asset value to a floating net asset value. The SEC rule created the adverse consequence of increasing borrowing costs, thereby making capital project improvements and upgrades more costly. Obtaining the lowest possible interest costs for tax-exempt financing is an important issue for local governments, developers and the construction trades.

Basalt also relies on money market funds to invest short-term cash because of their secure nature, simple accounting methodology, and liquidity. S.1117 additionally addresses an artificial barrier for municipalities to utilize money market funds due to internal investment policies that require immediate liquidity and the preservation of principal.

Please join the over 250 counties, cities, universities, hospitals, labor leaders, chambers of commerce, and businesses across the country in supporting S.1117. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Mahoney', is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Mahoney  
Town Manager, Basalt CO