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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Mayor Michael Gamba Joins First & Main Coalition to Advocate for Prosperity in America's Rural Places, Smaller Towns, and Midsized Cities**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – Mayor Michael Gamba has joined a fast-growing group of local elected leaders – under the First & Main coalition – to rally around a Blueprint for Prosperity to inform Congress and the White House how to best equip communities, like Glenwood Springs, to succeed.

Mayor Gamba described First & Main as a coalition that “gives small and mid-sized communities a unified voice in Washington. Mayors, county executives and tribal leaders know what federal programs benefit their constituencies. First & Main encourages local officials to rally around effective federal investments that will strengthen downtowns, connect regions and provide economic opportunity for all.” Through joining the First & Main coalition, Mayor Gamba represents Glenwood Springs in urging President Trump and Congress not to cut or eliminate programs that communities like Glenwood Springs rely on.

Last week, over 100 coalition members sent a joint letter to President Trump and members of Congress calling on the federal government to support local communities by enacting the Blueprint for Prosperity. The letter encourages federal leaders to support four key principles shared by coalition members: support locally-driven community revitalization; build vibrant, healthy, walkable towns and cities; create opportunities for everyone in America's small and mid-sized communities; and invest in infrastructure that creates lasting value.

An example of a federal program that has benefitted Glenwood Springs is the Brownfields area wide revitalization efforts through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funding. In the future, the City of Glenwood Springs hopes to benefit from the transportation BUILD grant, formerly named the TIGER grant, which was threatened for elimination through recent federal budget cuts.

Both grants above, along with many other grants, funds, and tax credits, are under the budgetary and/or policy control of federal leaders who received the coalition's letter detailing the Blueprint for Prosperity that will assist communities like Glenwood Springs.

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