



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### ***For Immediate Release***

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### **GRAND JUNCTION MAYOR ATTENDS U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS IN WASHINGTON D.C. TO FIGHT FOR FEDERAL SOLUTIONS TO HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS**

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. April 29, 2024** – City of Grand Junction Mayor Anna Stout, as part of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), is meeting with members of Congress in Washington, D.C. today as part of a two-day meeting to advocate for federal solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis affecting cities across the country. The delegation of nearly 50 mayors from across the country is led by USCM President Reno (NV) Mayor Hillary Schieve and Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Karen Bass, Chair of the USCM's Homelessness Task Force.

"The issue of homelessness is complex and we know is rooted in our housing crisis," stated Grand Junction Mayor Anna Stout. "Partnership is essential if we are to create long-term solutions especially at the federal-local level in order to address the complexity of this national crisis."

"Every city in the country is facing these challenges, and Grand Junction is no exception," continued Stout. "We are implementing wide-ranging solutions at the local level, including allocating over \$13M to housing and homelessness projects from the city's budget over the past two years alone, but we can only do so much without better tools and more funding. That's why I am spending my final three days as Grand Junction's mayor here in D.C. alongside fellow mayors to press for ways our federal government can provide us better tools and solutions."

As part of the two-day meeting, Mayor Stout will discuss the impact of the housing crisis in western Colorado in a meeting with Representative Brittany Pettersen who is member of the subcommittee on Housing and Insurance and the House Committee on Financial Services. Mayor Stout will focus on key issues of increased availability of affordable housing and housing for the local workforce, as well as improvements to the Section 8 HUD voucher program that would enable more community members to access housing.

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