

P.O. Box 174
111 West Moore Ave.
(719) 742-3631
Fax: (719) 742-5420

Huerfano County
La Veta, Colorado
81055



April 4, 2019

Re. Support of HB19-1292

Dear Representatives Singer and Galindo and Senator Ginal,

I write this letter in strong support of HB 19-1292, which authorizes funding for the Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) within the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. As the Mayor of La Veta, which was impacted by the Spring Creek Fire in 2018, I know first-hand how valuable the CRO is to Colorado communities before, during, and after a disaster like the many wildfires our state experienced last year. CRO is providing support to our community as we prepare for years of recovery and post-fire flooding and work hard to protect lives and properties.

We are not alone. Communities across Colorado are experiencing rapidly changing climate, social, and economic conditions. Wildfires are growing in frequency and intensity. More severe rain events and subsequent flooding threaten our homes, businesses, and lives.

The CRO is a critical office for helping communities address these changes that threaten local long-term resiliency by providing education and technical assistance to empower action at the local level. Building resiliency is not only needed to protect our communities in the face of a disaster, but also to enable communities to continue to thrive afterwards. Addressing resiliency before a disaster hits is not only good governance, it saves taxpayer dollars in the long run. For every \$1 spent on risk reduction today, \$6 are saved in future avoided costs.

Following the Spring Creek Fire, the CRO has played an active and supportive role in Huerfano County's and the Town's recovery. The CRO co-chairs the state's Long-Term Recovery Working Group, which helped dedicate recovery resources and funding, including leveraging federal funds for emergency watershed projects. We look forward to continuing to work with the CRO to incorporate resiliency activities into our long-term recovery efforts.

I was encouraged to see the passing of HB 18-1394 last year that codified the CRO and its activities that build state and local resiliency. Current funding for CRO operations is set to expire June 30, 2019. It is critical that HB 19-1292 pass to not only continue to fund this office, but to demonstrate the state's long-term commitment to supporting local communities in their efforts to shape their future into a more resilient one.

Sincerely,


Douglas R. Brooch
Mayor, Town of La Veta