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April 1, 2019

Honorable KC Becker  
Speaker of the House  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Speaker Becker:

I write today to express support for House Bill 19-1257 and House Bill 19-1258.

As you know, funding for higher education in Colorado is not keeping pace with the demands and pressures we work to address every day. As one of Colorado's fastest growing institutions of higher learning, CMU has worked very hard to develop budget efficiencies each year while investing resources in strategic growth initiatives. Even still, base funding per student at our institution is near the bottom of the pack in Colorado and something needs to change in order for institutions like ours to fulfil the lofty goals laid out in the Colorado Commission on Higher Education master plan.

To be sure, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) is in our state constitution and has broad support. However, I believe these measures are well within the spirit and language of TABOR as developing a plan and asking voters to weigh in is exactly what TABOR intended.

If your legislation is successful – and if voters approve the measures in the Fall – the State of Colorado will be able to make strategic investments in necessary services like education and transportation without needing to raise taxes. From my perspective, this makes sound economic and policy sense and I urge your fellow legislators and voters to support your efforts.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Foster". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tim Foster, President  
Colorado Mesa University