



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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February 19, 2025

The Honorable Faith Winter
Chair
Senate Transportation & Energy Committee
Colorado State Senate
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80202

Re: SB25-011 Detection Components for Wildfire Mitigation, TechNet Support

Dear Chair Winter and the Honorable Members of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee:

I write on behalf of TechNet and its members to share our support of SB25-11, which would support the adoption of artificial intelligence-enabled technologies to fight wildfires and protect Coloradans.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

AI is being used to predict severe weather more accurately, protect critical infrastructure, and defend against cyber threats. It is driving innovation in renewable energy and resource management, so we can better take care of our planet. Well before a natural disaster strikes, AI is being used to better predict threats, help first responders prioritize logistics, plan disaster responses, and even suggest ways of reducing the impact of future disasters. AI is enhancing our ability to prepare for and mitigate disasters before they occur by improving forecasts of tornados, floods, wildfires, hurricanes and other weather threats.

Wildfires affect hundreds of thousands of people each year and are increasing in frequency and size – a reality that Coloradans know only too well. The need for accurate information when wildfires occur has never been greater, especially as

extreme weather events like wildfires become more common. First responders need new tools to identify threats real time, as well as to identify damage to critical infrastructure. AI tools can help first responders map these disasters real-time to target mitigation efforts, and deliver relief efforts immediately following disasters. AI-enabled technologies are also proving that they can drastically streamline the damage assessment process when a natural disaster like a wildfire strikes – thus enabling faster and more precise disaster response coordination.

We thank the sponsor for their work on this bill and thank the Committee for your work on this legislation. TechNet respectfully asks the Committee to advance this bill to help give the State of Colorado access to cutting edge technologies it needs to protect Colorado families, homes, businesses, wildlife and infrastructure from devastating wildfires. If you have any questions, please contact me at rbarko@technet.org.

Best regards,



Ruthie Barko
Executive Director, Colorado & Central U.S.
TechNet

Cc: Sen. Lindsey Daugherty
Members of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee