

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole:

On behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time and attention your staff dedicated to meeting with me and discussing our key priorities related to transportation, infrastructure, and community development in Douglas County.

We were especially grateful for the insights provided by your staff on federal funding opportunities, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate closely with the Appropriations Committee to ensure that our Community Project Funding requests and other critical infrastructure initiatives are properly supported at the federal level. This cooperation is essential to help us address the growing needs of our county and improve the quality of life for our residents.

As you may know, Douglas County has experienced significant growth in both residential and commercial sectors, bringing increased demands on our transportation system and public infrastructure. The steady population growth, while a positive development for our community, has also led to congestion on key routes such as Interstate 25 (I-25), Highway 85, and the local roads connecting suburban communities to major employment centers. These congestion points pose challenges not only for daily commuters but also for public safety and the overall economic productivity of the county.

We are particularly focused on improving the capacity and safety of critical infrastructure, with immediate priorities including the widening of Highway 85 and addressing bottlenecks at the Happy Canyon and Lincoln Avenue interchanges along I-25. These efforts are critical for ensuring that Douglas County remains a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family, and we are committed to working with you to meet these needs both now and in the future.

Additionally, we are seeking funding for the development of a regional Joint Public Safety Training Facility (EVOC/Heli-base), which would be crucial in supporting our first responders. Our Helitack team, which has been instrumental in responding to wildfires—including 33 that we fought last year alone—relies on specialized training to ensure effective and safe operations. A regional facility would provide a vital space for both law enforcement and wildfire suppression training, enhancing our ability to respond swiftly and effectively in times of need. We greatly appreciate your interest in this potential project and look forward to working with you to strengthen public safety and improve our wildfire response capabilities.

We are also seeking support for the Heroes Hall project, a very worthy initiative that will serve as a dedicated meeting place for our nation's heroes and veterans. This facility will provide veterans with a place to gather, share experiences, and access essential services, while honoring their service and sacrifices. Funding for Heroes Hall would ensure that we provide a meaningful space for our veterans to connect, receive support, and continue to contribute to the community they so bravely served. We hope you will consider supporting this important project.

In addition to these initiatives, we are requesting funding for critical water projects, including the Louviers Water Project, which will address an urgent public health crisis and help provide clean, safe drinking water to the community. This project is essential for ensuring the well-being of the residents in Louviers, who currently face significant challenges with water quality. We are also seeking funding for the Dominion Water Project, which will help improve water infrastructure and ensure reliable access to clean water for a growing population. Both projects are vital to maintaining public health and supporting sustainable development in our region.

Once again, we thank you for your time and commitment to our community's needs. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and the Appropriations Committee, as well as Congresswoman Boebert and our two Senators as we seek to secure the resources and support necessary to meet the demands of our growing county and strengthen our local economy.

Sincerely,



George Teal, Commissioner