



COLORADO

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Department of Public Safety

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
374 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Letter of Support for the Durango Fire Protection District Interagency Wildfire Center

The State of Colorado's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) supports the Durango Fire Protection District's (DFPD) request for Congressionally Directed Spending to construct an Interagency Wildfire Center in Southwest Colorado.

Funding for this project represents support for strategic investment in regional resilience, federal-state efficiency, and community resilience across the Four Corners region. The project utilizes land owned by DFPD to become a center point of regional interagency cooperation. The project will provide space for training, equipment, staff housing and incident management for multiple agencies year round. For 15 years DFPD has sustainably maintained a wildland fire program to actively support incident and emergency management at local, state and national levels. The district collaborates with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico fire agencies, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and DHSEM among others.

Establishing a permanent Interagency Wildfire Center will formalize and expand the success of regional collaboration while providing essential infrastructure for personnel, equipment, and training to support regional firefighting efforts across agencies and disciplines.

Sincerely,

Trevor W. Denney
Director, Colorado Office of Emergency Management



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Jared Polis, Governor | Stan Hilkey, Executive Director