



April 5, 2022

Senator Michael Bennet
Senate Appropriations Committee
Capitol Building Room S-128
Washington DC 20510

Re: Build Pagosa Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Application

Dear Senator Bennet:

The local Colorado governments of Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs commend the efforts of the non-profit Build Pagosa, Inc. We support the work they are doing with the community's youth. Build Pagosa's vision to construct a new facility to expand the Career Technical Education (CTE) programs is critical to the future workforce in Archuleta County. Their foresight to bring additional post-secondary education to the community is a key component to the economic resilience of our community.

The Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) grant will take center stage to complete a new 12,785 square foot CTE center on the school district property. This space will further the educational opportunities in programs that provide skilled labor for building, workforce housing, healthcare, culinary arts, hospitality, sustainable energy, agriculture, ski-resort management, forestry, and more. The center will be used for post-secondary education classes through Pueblo Community College to develop career paths for students, allowing them to remain in their home community while providing local businesses with an invested, well-trained workforce. The community has already pledged support in excess of \$1.8 million. For a population of roughly 15,000, this is a remarkable achievement. CDS grant money will take this project across the finish line.

It is critical to the well-being and continued growth of our rural area that we provide our youth and adults with certificates through hands-on learning. The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County are proud to support this grant application and we urge your consideration of the Build Pagosa, Inc. grant application.

Sincerely,

Town of Pagosa Springs

Alvin Schaaf, Chairman
Archuleta County