

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Lauren Boebert
U.S. House of Representatives
4th Congressional District of Colorado
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Boebert,

We write to extend our sincere gratitude for the opportunity to meet with you, your Chief of Staff and your Deputy Chief of Staff. It was invaluable to discuss the pressing issues facing our county and the broader challenges affecting our nation. Your willingness to engage and take action on these matters is deeply appreciated.

We were pleased to share the essential work of our Helitack team and highlight the pivotal role our helicopter operations played in combating 33 wildfires last year. Your support for exploring the establishment of a regional first responder training facility, which would enhance both law enforcement training and wildfire response efforts, was especially encouraging. We are hopeful this collaboration can enhance public safety and improve wildfire suppression capabilities throughout our region.

We were also heartened by our discussion on your *Human Trafficking Fingerprint Background Check Protection Act* and *Private Sector Competition in Microtransit Act*. We fully support both initiatives and urge their reintroduction. The first bill is a critical step in combating human trafficking, while the second promotes competition, reduces costs, and saves taxpayer dollars.

We also commend you for your unwavering commitment to securing our borders and enforcing our nation's deportation laws. The work your office has done to strengthen border security and help remove criminal illegal aliens from our communities is not only necessary but urgent. As we all know, this is a matter of public safety and protecting American citizens.

Equally important is the discussion we had on empowering local law enforcement to assist in deportation efforts without facing legal hurdles. Transforming detainer warrants into criminal federal warrants is a straightforward, commonsense reform that would provide local officers with the necessary tools to uphold the law and protect our communities. Using a limited scope to federally authorize certain local law enforcement officials to assist in deportation efforts would also be of great benefit. We urge you to prioritize these reforms and work with your colleagues to pass legislation that will make it easier for local law enforcement to help uphold federal immigration law.

We also deeply appreciate your attention to Douglas County's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of provisions in Title 24 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, particularly Articles 76.6 and 76.7. As you know, these unconstitutional state laws prevent local and state law enforcement from engaging in essential immigration enforcement duties—such as arresting or detaining illegal immigrants for civil immigration violations, sharing non-public personal identifying information with federal authorities, and entering into agreements with federal agencies to enforce immigration law. We are committed to seeing these unconstitutional provisions overturned through litigation, and we urge you to continue supporting efforts to protect local law enforcement's ability to help enforce federal immigration laws.

As noted in the January 17th letter from you and your colleagues to Governor Jared Polis, these laws "prevent public safety investigations" by blocking critical inquiries where immigration status is a factor. It is intolerable that state and local governments are allowed to thwart federal immigration enforcement, and we are determined to see these dangerous policies overturned. We ask that you work with your colleagues

to pass federal legislation that explicitly preempts sanctuary policies, ensuring that state and local governments cannot obstruct or undermine the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

We were also encouraged by our discussion on federal transportation funding. It is unacceptable that sanctuary cities, which undermine law enforcement, continue to receive federal transportation resources. We strongly believe that these funds should be redirected to communities that prioritize public safety and lawful immigration enforcement. We are eager to collaborate with you and your office to advance this critical issue and ensure that our infrastructure investments go to communities that uphold the rule of law.

We are also eager to continue working closely with you to help secure the necessary federal support for our Community Project Funding requests and other transportation and infrastructure priorities that will improve safety, connectivity, and efficiency for our residents. Douglas County has experienced significant growth, both in residential and commercial development, which has led to increasing demands on our transportation system, public utilities, and overall infrastructure. The county's population has steadily grown, bringing new families, businesses, and opportunities.

While most of this growth is extremely positive, the increased number of commuters and residents has resulted in congestion on key routes, including Interstate 25 (I-25), Highway 85, and roads connecting suburban communities to major employment centers. These traffic bottlenecks not only create frustration for residents, but they also pose safety concerns and negatively impact the county's economic productivity. While we will have additional requests, widening Highway 85 and also addressing the Happy Canyon, Lincoln Avenue, and Crystal Valley Ranch interchanges on I-25 are immediate priorities that we will be in touch with more information on in the near future. By addressing these critical infrastructure needs, we can ensure that Douglas County remains a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Additionally, we stand united with you in advocating for the continued presence of U.S. Space Command in Colorado, recognizing its strategic importance to our national defense and the state's economic well-being. Your ongoing efforts to ensure that U.S. Space Command remains in our state are greatly appreciated.

We were also grateful for the opportunity to discuss the aerospace industry's vital role in Colorado's economy. As a leader in the aerospace sector, Colorado is at the forefront of innovation in space exploration and technology, providing high-paying jobs and supporting national defense. We support continued investment in this industry, which is key to both our state's economic future and national security.

Once again, thank you for your time, insight, and steadfast leadership on these critical issues. We look forward to continuing our work together to promote safety, security, and prosperity for Douglas County and the Fourth Congressional District.

Sincerely,



Abe Laydon, Chairman



Kevin Van Winkle, Commissioner



George Teal, Commissioner



Darren Weekly, Sheriff