

February 24, 2020

Chairman Dylan Roberts  
House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chairman Roberts, and other distinguished members of the House Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee,

On behalf of the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) and its more than 200 member organizations from rural and urban communities around the state, we would like to indicate our **support for SB20-002**.

As part of the EDCC legislative perspective, we believe that it is our role to **support existing and proposed programs that serve to attract, retain, and expand primary employers and primary employment**. SB20-002 would be a significant and important piece of legislation that will help rural communities in Colorado achieve this imperative economic development goal.

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program is aimed at providing resources and assistance to our rural communities in the state. The program allows for a variety of economic development projects to qualify for assistance based on the unique needs of each rural community - whether it is support for entrepreneurship opportunities, public/private partnerships, workforce development, or economic diversification. This provides valuable tools for rural areas that are often ignored, or face challenges in growing their local economies.

This bill will help encourage more economic growth and development, and having strong rural communities will only strengthen Colorado, so **we ask that you support SB20-002**. For more information, please contact the EDCC's lobbyist, Jennifer Cassell at [jennifer.cassell@bcpublicaffairs.com](mailto:jennifer.cassell@bcpublicaffairs.com) or (785) 393-0472.

Respectfully,



Stewart Meek  
Public Policy Committee Chair