

LARIMER COUNTY | ROAD AND BRIDGE

2643 Midpoint Drive, Suite C, Fort Collins, CO 80522 | 970.498.5650 | Larimer.org/roads

February 11, 2020

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

I am submitting this letter to acknowledge my full support of the effort to revise and amend the current 811 Statute. The current law requires underground utility locates to be performed in advance of regular and routine roadway surface maintenance operations in Colorado rights-of-way.

The current law requiring maintenance agencies to order and receive underground utility locates prior to performing regular and routine roadway surface and drainage maintenance makes our efforts to perform these maintenance activities less efficient and less timely; restricting our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system in a timely manner and creates a burden on the underground facility owners.

The creation of the "Grading Permit" under SB18-67 was intended to streamline the process of requesting underground utility locates for routine and regular roadway surface maintenance by allowing maintenance agencies to request locates for all non-paved roads on one ticket each 180 days. In theory, this should help protect underground utilities and provide a safer working environment for maintenance agency employees. Instead it has diverted underground facility owners locating efforts away from higher risk excavations as they attempt to keep up with the requests for locates on the thousands of miles of non-paved roadway surface maintenance operations occurring daily around the state.

I support a proposed amendment, House Bill HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation"

- Routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-way on County owned gravel or dirt roads performed by County employees that:
 - I. Does not lower the existing grade or elevation of the road, and ditches and
 - II. Does not disturb more than six inches in depth during maintenance operations.

Given that these routine and regular roadway surface maintenance operations have been occurring for decades with no history of routine damage to underground utilities in the top six inches (6") of the roadway surfaces the proposed amendment is appropriate. If approved the amendments will allow maintenance agencies to meet their responsibility of providing for a safe and functional roadway system in a more efficient and timely manner and will allow underground utility owners to focus their locate efforts on higher risk excavations; increasing safety statewide.

Respectfully,

Todd Juergens
Larimer County Road and Bridge Director
2020 CARSE President

970-498-5653, tjuergens@larimer.org





February 11, 2020

State Legislators
Colorado Counties Inc.
Colorado Association of Road Supervisors and Engineers

I am submitting this letter to acknowledge my full support of the effort to revise and amend the current 811 Statute; SB18-67. The current law requires underground utility locates to be performed in advance of regular and routine roadway surface maintenance operations in Colorado rights-of-way.

The current law requiring maintenance agencies to order and receive underground utility locates prior to performing regular and routine roadway surface and drainage maintenance makes our efforts to perform these maintenance activities less efficient and less timely; restricting our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system in a timely manner and creates a burden on the underground facility owners.

The creation of the "Grading Permit" under SB18-167 was intended to streamline the process of requesting underground utility locates for routine and regular roadway surface maintenance by allowing maintenance agencies to request locates for all non-paved roads on one ticket each 180 days. In theory, this should help protect underground utilities and provide a safer working environment for maintenance agency employees. Instead it has diverted underground facility owners locating efforts away from higher risk excavations as they attempt to keep up with the requests for locates on the thousands of miles of non-paved roadway surface maintenance operations occurring daily around the state.

I support a proposed amendment, House Bill 20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation"

- "Any maintenance of County roads and County road rights-of-way, including but not limited to blading of gravel roads, resurfacing or milling of paved roads, and reshaping of road shoulders and adjacent ditches to the original road profile, that does not disturb more than a depth of six inches."

Given that these routine and regular roadway surface maintenance operations have been occurring for decades with no history of routine damage to underground utilities in the top six inches (6") of the roadway surfaces the proposed amendment is appropriate. If approved the amendments will allow maintenance agencies to meet their responsibility of providing for a safe and functional roadway system in a more efficient and timely manner and will allow underground utility owners to focus their locate efforts on higher risk excavations; increasing safety statewide.

Respectfully,

Lori S. Miskines, P.E.
Engineer, Douglas County Public Works Operations
303-663-6246
lmiskine@douglas.co.us



*"Honoring Our Past,
While Designing Our Future"*

**CLEAR CREEK COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION**
3549 COUNTY ROAD 312
P.O. BOX 362
DUMONT, COLORADO 80436
303-679-2334 Fax: 303-679-2446

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

I am submitting this letter to acknowledge my full support of House Bill HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation"

- Routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-way on County owned gravel or dirt roads performed by County employees that:
 - I. Does not lower the existing grade or elevation of the road, and ditches and
 - II. Does not disturb more than six inches in depth during maintenance operations.

HB20-1173 will allow counties to perform regular and routine maintenance on the over 100,000 miles of non-paved roads in Colorado in a more efficient and timely manner; improving our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system for our citizens.

Respectfully,

Karl Schell
Public Works Director
Clear Creek County
(303) 679-2317
kschell@clearcreekcounty.us

2/10/2020

To: **Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee**

I am submitting this document to acknowledge my full support of an effort to revise and amend the current 811 Statute SB18-67. This Statute currently requires underground utility locates to be performed in advance of routine roadway surface maintenance in Colorado rights-of-way.

Conformance with Statute SB18-67 has made routine maintenance less efficient and more difficult to achieve. The current Statute has resulted in restricting our ability provide a safe and functional roadway system in a timely manner.

I support a proposed amendment, HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that exempts Counties from acquiring underground utility locates when grading the top 6" of the surface in County rights-of-way.

Respectfully,

Rod Meredith

Director of Public Works Operations

Douglas County, Colorado

Phone # 303-242-2274 (cell)



February 3, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Morgan County Board of Commissioners endorses **HB20-1173, Exempt County Road Maintenance from 811 Requirements.**

The Commission recognizes the value in exempting counties from 811 utility locate requirements when performing routine maintenance on county roads, provided that the maintenance activities do no lower the grade of the road or disturb more than six inches of soil. In addition the savings of time and resources are part of the recognized value to Morgan County

We actively support HB20-1173 and ask that you would consider Morgan County's support of this bill when you cast your vote.

Respectfully,

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Arndt', written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Arndt – Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James P. Zwetzig', written over a horizontal line.

James P. Zwetzig- Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon J. Becker', written over a horizontal line.

Jon J. Becker - Commissioner

February 10, 2020

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

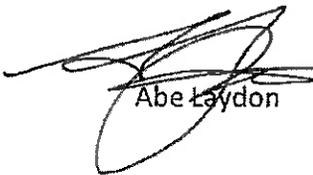
We are submitting this letter to acknowledge our full support of House Bill HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation":

- Routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-way on County owned gravel or dirt roads performed by County employees that:
 1. Does not lower the existing grade or elevation of the road, and ditches, and
 2. Does not disturb more than six inches in depth during maintenance operations

HB20-1173 will allow counties to perform regular and routine maintenance on the over 100,000 miles of non-paved roads in Colorado in a more efficient and timely manner; improving our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system for our citizens.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Abe Laydon


Roger A. Partridge


Lora L. Thomas

Abe Laydon
Commissioner District I

Roger A. Partridge
Commissioner District II

Lora L. Thomas
Commissioner District III



RIO GRANDE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT
168 N WASHINGTON - MONTE VISTA, CO. 81144
(719) 852-4781 FAX (719)852-0305

February 10, 2020

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

I am submitting this letter to acknowledge my full support of House Bill HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation"

- Routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-way on County owned gravel or dirt roads performed by County employees that:
 - I. Does not lower the existing grade or elevation of the road, and ditches and
 - II. Does not disturb more than six inches in depth during maintenance operations.

HB20-1173 will allow counties to perform regular and routine maintenance on the over 100,000 miles of non-paved roads in Colorado in a more efficient and timely manner; improving our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system for our citizens.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Patrick Sullivan
Road Supervisor
Rio Grande County
719-852-4781
rgcroaddept@riograndecounty.org



COUNTY OF ELBERT

PO Box 7, 215 Comanche St, Kiowa, CO, 80117, 303-621-2341

Chris Richardson, Commissioner District 1
Rick Pettitt, Commissioner District 2
Grant Thayer, Commissioner District 3

Rep. Matt Gray, Chair
Rep. Tony Exum, Vice Chair
Rep. Terri Carver
Rep. Marc Catlin
Rep. Meg Froelich
Rep, Edie Hooten

Rep. Stephen Humpfrey
Rep. Jovan Melton
Rep. Alex Valdez
Rep. Donald Valdez
Rep. James D. Wilson

February 10, 2020

RE: Support of House Bill 20-1173, *Locate Exemption For County Road Maintenance*

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

We urge your full support of HB 20-1173 which provides a critical exemption for largely rural counties such as Elbert County. The current 811 process for receiving clearance for routine gravel road maintenance is clumsy and increases risk to the traveling public unnecessarily.

Like most rural counties, our gravel road network greatly exceeds that of our paved roads (5:1 in Elbert County). Regular grading is essential to remove wash-boarding and ruts which can cause drivers to lose control of vehicles at even moderate speeds resulting in injury and damage to property. The current requirement to receive 811 clearance prior to routine grading impedes our regular maintenance program places our citizens at risk.

The waste of resources required to receive clearance to retrieve loose material from borrow ditches and grade road surfaces when all utilities are required to be buried at a depth that exceeds 24 inches is enormous. We have never had an incident when a properly installed utility was damaged. As with most counties, we are well aware of existing utilities and we ensure proper installation depths within our rights of way for new construction.

Supporting this bill places counties on the same footing with CDOT in regard to requirements for utilities location prior to routine grading which does not exceed disturbing more than 6 inches of road surface or change in the profiles of borrow ditches. The changes proposed by this bill will save resources and improve citizen safety.

For the Elbert County Board of County Commissioners:

-Respectfully,

Chris Richardson
Chairman

Board of



County Commissioners

February 10, 2020

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
Denver, CO

Re: HB20-1173

Dear Members,

On behalf of Mineral County Commissioners and Road and Bridge Department I am writing this letter of support for HB20-1173. This bill exempts County Road maintenance from 811 requirements. Mineral County maintains 136 miles of gravel roads, most under a Schedule A agreement with the Rio Grande National Forest. Nearly all of these roads are maintained for dual purpose, residential and recreation. Consequently, utilities are in the road corridor so under current legislation the County calls for a utility locate. This is burdensome at best and obstructive most of the time. We have a limited amount of time to get all of these miles graded before the bulk of summer traffic descends on the County so waiting on an overworked 811 system can and does cut into that window. Our operators are well trained and educated as to where the utility lines are located and most of them are at least 24" or more below grade. Having to call a locate for 6" of maintenance is, frankly, ridiculous. Current conditions waste time, money and effort and creates a redundant system that doesn't have sound statistics for support.

I urge you to vote to pass HB20-1173 and take this burden off of our County resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Albright".

Jesse Albright

Chair,

Mineral County Board of Commissioners



Jefferson County
Road & Bridge Division
21401 Golden Gate Canyon Rd.
Golden, CO 80403

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

I am submitting this letter to acknowledge my full support of House Bill HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation"

- Routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-way on County owned gravel or dirt roads performed by County employees that:
 - I. Does not lower the existing grade or elevation of the road, and ditches and
 - II. Does not disturb more than six inches in depth during maintenance operations.

HB20-1173 will allow counties to perform regular and routine maintenance on the over 100,000 miles of non-paved roads in Colorado in a more efficient and timely manner; improving our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system for our citizens.

Respectfully,

Mike Secary

Director, Road and Bridge

o 303.271.5201 f 303.271.5222 w jeffco.us





MONTEZUMA COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT
1680 NORTH DOLORES ROAD
CORTEZ, COLORADO 81321
970-565-8666 FAX 970-565-8252

February 10, 2020

To: Members of the House Transportation and Local Government
Committee
Colorado Counties Incorporated
Colorado Association of Road Supervisors and Engineers

I am submitting this document to acknowledge my full support of an effort to revise and amend the current 811 Statute SB18-67. This Statute currently requires underground utility locates to be performed in advance of routine roadway surface maintenance in Colorado rights-of-way.

Conformance with Statute SB18-67 has made routine maintenance less efficient and more difficult to achieve. The current Statute has resulted in restricting our ability provide a safe and functional roadway system in a timely manner.

I support House Bill 20-1173, which deletes the current language in the law that references the locate requirement for Counties.

Respectfully,

Rob Englehart
Road Superintendent
Montezuma County
970-565-8666



136 6th Street, Suite 103
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
970-870-5552

February 10, 2020

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

I am submitting this letter to acknowledge my full support of House Bill HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation"

- Routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-way on County owned gravel or dirt roads performed by County employees that:
 - I. Does not lower the existing grade or elevation of the road, and ditches and
 - II. Does not disturb more than six inches in depth during maintenance operations.

HB20-1173 will allow counties to perform regular and routine maintenance on the over 100,000 miles of non-paved roads in Colorado (Routt County has over 650 miles of gravel roads) in a more efficient and timely manner; improving our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system for our citizens.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Mordi'.

Mike Mordi, P.E.
Assistant Director
Routt County Public Works

970-870-5337
mmordi@co.routt.co.us



Public Works Department

195 Basin Park Dr., Gunnison, CO 81230

Phone: 970-641-0044

Fax: 970-641-8120

February 10, 2020

Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

I am submitting this letter to acknowledge my full support of House Bill HB20-1173, which provides for a change to the current 811 Law that will exclude from the definition of "Excavation"

Routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-way on County owned gravel or dirt roads performed by County employees that:

- I. Does not lower the existing grade or elevation of the road, and ditches and
- II. Does not disturb more than six inches in depth during maintenance operations.

HB20-1173 will allow counties to perform regular and routine maintenance on the over 100,000 miles of non-paved roads in Colorado in a more efficient and timely manner; improving our ability to provide a safe and functional roadway system for our citizens.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlene D. Crosby".

Marlene D. Crosby

Gunnison County Deputy County Manager/Public Works Director

mcrosby@gunnisoncounty.org

970-641-0044 office

970-209-8825 cell