



May 26, 2020

Written Testimony—HB20-1003

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee;

On behalf of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization that represents 900 mostly small businesses employing 37,000 people in Mesa County I am asking you to support HB20-1003, the renewal of the Rural Jump Start program.

Mesa County has relied on this program for the past five years and has seen success both in new locations and in existing businesses standing up new divisions. The resulting job creation and economic activity was a factor in helping our county recover from the 2008 recession when we had a net loss of over 600 small businesses in three short years. We need the program even more urgently now, for we once again face an economic crisis that no one anticipated a few short months ago.

The changes proposed in this bill will help make the program even more effective in spurring economic growth and job creation moving forward. The immediate impacts to the state are minimal in terms of staff time devoted to administering the program. Factoring in anticipated lost tax revenue on activity that might not happen is irrelevant to our long-term economic stability and this discussion.

This program will help our rural areas recover more quickly and is needed now so I urge a yes vote on HB20-1003.

Thank you for your consideration and time,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diane Schwenke'.

Diane Schwenke
President/CEO