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March 13, 2026

U.S. Congressman Jason Crow  
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet  
U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper

Subject: Importance of a Type 3 Wildland Engine for the City of Aurora, Colorado

The City of Aurora, Colorado continues to experience rapid growth along its eastern and southeastern boundaries, where residential development increasingly interfaces with open space, grasslands, and natural areas. As these areas expand, so does the community's exposure to wildland fire risk. The addition of a Type 3 wildland fire engine would significantly enhance Aurora Fire Rescue's ability to effectively respond to these evolving hazards.

A Type 3 wildland engine is specifically designed for vegetation and wildland-urban interface (WUI) fires. Unlike traditional structural engines, these apparatuses are lighter, more maneuverable, and capable of traveling off-road on narrow trails, dirt roads, and uneven terrain. This capability is particularly important in Aurora, where fires can ignite in open space corridors, drainage areas, and undeveloped parcels that are not easily accessible to standard fire apparatus.

Aurora's geography includes large expanses of grasslands and open space that can support fast-moving grass fires during dry and windy conditions common along Colorado's Front Range. A Type 3 engine provides increased pump-and-roll capability, allowing firefighters to move alongside a fire while actively applying water. This tactic is critical for quickly containing wind-driven fires before they threaten nearby neighborhoods, infrastructure, and public lands.

In addition to improving initial attack capability within the city, a Type 3 wildland engine would strengthen Aurora's participation in regional mutual aid and statewide wildfire response. Colorado frequently experiences large wildland fires that require resources from municipal departments. A dedicated wildland engine allows Aurora Fire Rescue to support neighboring jurisdictions and statewide response efforts without compromising structural response readiness within the city.

The investment in a Type 3 wildland engine represents a proactive approach to community risk reduction. By enhancing Aurora's ability to rapidly access and suppress vegetation fires, the city can better protect homes, critical infrastructure, and open space while improving firefighter safety and operational effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Michael Coffman, Mayor  
Aurora, Colorado

**Supporting Emergency Service Leaders**

Name: Daniel L Dailey

Title / Department: Chief, Treadwell Fire

Signature: Daniel L Dailey

Date: 03/12/2026

Name: Nathan Whittington

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