



**Letter of Support for Congressional Community Project Funding
South Metro Fire Rescue – Type Wildland Engine**

The Honorable Jason Crow U.S. House of Representatives 1323 Longworth House Building Washington D.C. 20515	The Honorable John Hickenlooper U.S. Senate 374 Russell Senate Building Washington D.C. 20510	The Honorable Michael Bennet U.S. Senate 374 Russell Senate Building Washington D.C. 20510
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March 12, 2026

Dear Congressman Crow, Senator Hickenlooper, and Senator Bennet,

I am writing to express strong support for South Metro Fire Rescue’s request for federal funding to acquire a Type III wildland fire engine to enhance emergency response capabilities across the Denver metropolitan area, and nationwide.

A Type III wildland fire engine is a diverse four-wheel drive apparatus that provides tremendous flexibility in fighting wildland fires. This provides two pumps, one main fire pump capable of fighting a house fire or significant structure defense and one auxiliary pump for traditional wildland firefighting tactics. This allows fire fighters to remain dynamic in the wildland urban interface environment.

South Metro Fire Rescue is strong mutual-aid partner throughout the region, including communities across Douglas, Arapahoe, and Jefferson counties and adjacent jurisdictions. This unit will also be made available across the nation through a cooperater agreement with the State of Colorado. Responding staffed with four qualified and highly trained firefighters anywhere in the nation for 14 days at a time.

While Douglas County continues to grow and develop. We pride ourselves in maintaining vast open space and know that urban interface fires will remain part of our landscape for years to come. Resources such as these align with our county’s focus on wildfire preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. Funding this wildland fire engine provides additional tools to protect our citizens from the effects from large fast-moving wildfires. Providing the ability for responders to better control and extinguish fires prior to them becoming natural disasters.

For these reasons, we strongly support South Metro Fire Rescue’s request and respectfully urge your consideration of this important public safety investment.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to protecting Colorado communities.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Darren M. Weekly

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