



Board of County Commissioners

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www.eaglecounty.us

February 4, 2019

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the partial shutdown of the federal government, and urge that you work with your colleagues in the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to keep the federal government open. Should the partial shutdown go back into effect, we believe that the impacts to our community will be felt by all and especially severely by some of our most vulnerable residents.

Many federal employees live in Eagle County (working for the Forest Service, BLM, TSA and other agencies) who did not receive paychecks during their furlough. This affected their ability to buy food, pay rent, mortgage and other bills, and take care of their children - all of which has a compounding effect on families and our local economy.

At a broader scale, the public lands and natural resources that draw visitors from around the world to our community are significant economic drivers for Eagle County. The White River National Forest, which has several offices in Eagle County and comprises a significant portion of the county's land mass, is an essential economic driver for our community. Keeping these critical resources open, staffed, and available to residents and visitors is of great importance to Eagle County.

Indirect impacts in the areas of nutrition, housing, income, and food safety, mental and physical health include:

- Access to nutrition support programs
- Suspension of some FDA inspections (impacting potential safety of our food sources)
- Income loss and/or suspension of rental assistance programs leading to housing insecurity
- Lack of income for federal and contractors and subcontractors



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Many of our programs and services were impacted, and the level of uncertainty has required staff to scramble to make contingency plans should this shutdown go back into effect. If you would like specific examples of effects on our airport, agencies, and residents, please let us know and we will be happy to supply those.

Thank you for your good work on our behalf. We, and our citizens, expect an operational Federal government.

Sincerely,

Eagle County Board of Commissioners

Jeanne McQueeney

Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Commissioner