



Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605

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eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us

www.eaglecounty.us

June 2, 2021

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

Dear Senator Bennet,

We are writing to request your support of Eagle County's Beneficial Electrification for Eagle County Homes (BEECH) project through a Congressionally Directed Spending request of \$1,196,100. This amount will fully fund energy efficiency upgrades as well as the transition from dangerous propane heating to safe and high-efficiency electric heating for all 69 homes in the Dotsero mobile home park. Lessons learned in Dotsero can be applied to the other 1,200+ mobile homes in Eagle County and 80,000+ mobile homes throughout Colorado.

Electricity has become the clean fuel of choice, and switching from fossil fuels to all-electric is a leading climate action strategy. Beneficial electrification is being demonstrated in various building types throughout our community including single-family and multi-family housing. BEECH is proving the benefits of electrification for low-income residents living in mobile homes, including:

- Life safety improvements through electrical inspections and service upgrades
- Eliminated risk of propane leaks and combustion gases (CO) in homes
- Energy savings of \$100 to \$300 each month during heating season
- Elimination of fossil fuels and related greenhouse gas emissions of 6 tons / year / home

Visions for the project are to eliminate the risks and high costs of propane heating for an entire neighborhood, and to replicate these results in other mobile homes and neighborhoods. Eagle County Government supports Northwest Colorado Council of Governments as the implementation partner for this project, and provides leadership, partner coordination, and \$50,000 of dedicated general funds in 2021 to help weatherize and electrify fifteen (15) homes in the Dotsero Mobile Home Park.

Five homes are now completed, and ten more are approved for funding in summer 2021 through the federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and local utility rebates. The cost to improve the electric service, weatherize the building shell, and switch out propane heaters to high-efficiency all electric appliances costs an average of \$22,150 per home. Completing work for the remaining 54 mobile homes in 2022 will cost an additional \$1,196,100.



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The public impact of this project is considerable. The Eagle County Board of Commissioners strongly supports this request for funding to complete the BEECH initiative at Dotsero Mobile Home Park in 2022. We believe BEECH supports our climate action plan, but more importantly BEECH directly protects life safety and supports economic health for low-income Eagle County residents. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner



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