

HB24-1006 TESTIMONY

Todd Dixon

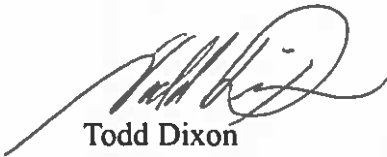
Mayor, Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

Madam Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Todd Dixon, I am the Mayor of Green Mountain Falls and I am representing myself and the Town of Green Mountain Falls.

I am writing to you today in support of HB24-1006. This Bill currently includes language to help rural communities such as mine by providing technical assistance to identify and *apply* for wildfire mitigation grant funding. Providing technical assistance in applying for these financial resources is critical for small, rural communities. The Town of Green Mountain Falls has only 646 full-time residents and an annual revenue of around \$750,000. We can only afford two full-time administrative staff and their time is consumed with just keeping the Town operational. There is funding available for wildfire mitigation efforts, but it is getting increasingly difficult for our limited staff to apply for these grants. Being one of the highest risk areas for wildfire in the State, it is imperative for Green Mountain Falls to continue our wildfire mitigation and planning efforts.

Please help us in trying to reduce the risk of an uncontrolled wildfire by voting for this Bill.

Thank You!



Todd Dixon

Mayor, Green Mountain Falls Colorado

HB1006_L.001

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources.

HB24-1006 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2 substitute:

3 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-31-321 as
4 follows:

5 **23-31-321. Wildfire mitigation and preparedness - rural grant**
6 **navigator grant program - creation - administration - reporting -**
7 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT

8 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
10 CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-125.

11 (b) "FOREST SERVICE" MEANS THE COLORADO STATE FOREST
12 SERVICE IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 23-31-302.

13 (c) "NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION" OR "NGO" HAS THE
14 MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 24-37.5-102 (20).

15 (d) "RURAL GRANT NAVIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM" OR
16 "COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COMPETITIVE GRANT
17 PROGRAM AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (2) (a) THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL ESTABLISH A RURAL GRANT
19 NAVIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANT MONEY FOR
20 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING OUTREACH AND
21 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ^{administration, and reporting} INCLUDING GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE TO
22 RURAL COMMUNITIES ^{with limited capacity} SEEKING TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTS
23 RELATED TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS. The Forest Service may leverage NGOs to

24 (b) ~~ON OR AFTER MARCH 1, 2025, AN NGO ASSISTING ONE OR~~
25 ~~MORE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH OBTAINING FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTS~~
26 ~~RELATED TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION OR PREPAREDNESS MAY APPLY TO THE~~
27 ~~FOREST SERVICE FOR GRANT MONEY IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICATION~~
28 ~~AND ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES THAT THE FOREST SERVICE ESTABLISHES~~
29 ~~PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION FOR THE COMPETITIVE~~
30 ~~GRANT PROGRAM.~~ ^{assist with program implementation.}

31 (3) (a) THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL CONSULT WITH NGOs THAT
32 CURRENTLY ASSIST OR ARE SEEKING TO ASSIST COLORADO COMMUNITIES
33 WITH WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS TO DEVELOP CRITERIA
34 AND GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

35 (b) THE CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO
36 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST:

37 (I) BE COMPLETED AND POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE FOREST
38 SERVICE ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2025; AND

39 (II) INCLUDE CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR AT LEAST THE
40 FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM:

1 ~~(A) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NGO APPLICANTS ASSISTING~~
2 ~~RURAL COMMUNITIES IN SEEKING FEDERAL OR STATE GRANT MONEY FOR~~
3 ~~WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS;~~

4 ~~(B) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS; AND~~

5 (C) PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED NGOS,
6 INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN SELECTED
7 NGOS TO ENSURE NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AND FOR PERIODIC
8 REPORTING.

9 (c) AFTER THE FOREST SERVICE HAS CREATED THE ~~COMPETITIVE~~
10 ~~GRANT PROGRAM~~, TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY,
11 SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT, THE DIVISION OF FIRE
12 PREVENTION AND CONTROL CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1201 (1)(a), AND
13 THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON ~~EFFECTIVE USES OF THE GRANT MONEY AND~~
14 ~~SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.~~ ^{program outcomes} THE FOREST SERVICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH
15 SELECTED NGOS, SHALL DEVELOP METRICS TO HELP THE FOREST SERVICE
16 ASSESS THE SUCCESS OF THE ~~COMPETITIVE GRANT~~ PROGRAM.

17 (4) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2026, AND ON OR BEFORE MARCH
18 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL SUBMIT A
19 WRITTEN REPORT SUMMARIZING THE ~~COMPETITIVE GRANT~~ PROGRAM TO
20 THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION
21 2-3-1602 (1)(a) OR, IF THE COMMITTEE NO LONGER EXISTS, TO BOTH THE
22 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND NATURAL
23 RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
24 RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE FOREST
25 SERVICE SHALL POST COPIES OF THE REPORTS ON ITS WEBSITE.

26 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE WRITTEN
27 REPORT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION CONTINUES
28 INDEFINITELY.

29 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
30 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
31 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
32 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
33 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
34 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
35 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
36 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
37 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

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