



November 30, 2020

Dear Governor Polis and Northwest Colorado State Legislative Delegation:

Re: Special State Legislative Session – Appeal for Flexible Business Support and Assistance Offer

The Northwest Chamber Alliance (a coalition that includes the Boulder, Broomfield, Lafayette, Latino, Longmont, Louisville and Superior Chambers of Commerce) believes Colorado’s resilience through the COVID-19 crisis and the speed of our economic recovery will depend on having our businesses and their staff teams sustained through this most difficult response period. Only in that way, will they have the capacity to rebound once we move toward our economic recovery phase. With those concerns in mind, we are pleased that Governor Polis has called for a Special Session of the State Legislature to address immediate business and workforce needs.

As you prepare your legislative agenda for the Special Session, we note that each of our chambers has had regular and continued communication with our local business community and we know firsthand the concerns and needs of business owners and their staff teams. Without federal stimulus dollars to provide a safety net, as was the case earlier this year, we know that time is now of the essence. Many businesses face economic hardships that may ultimately force them to close for good if assistance is not provided in an expedited manner.

To address the immediate needs of our businesses and their workforce, we urge that you target support funds toward relief that will be most helpful and effective. For example, rather than placing specific restrictions on how they can use support dollars, we argue for maximum flexibility to address their diverse needs that range from rent and mortgage payments to outdoor dining equipment, payroll, utilities and any other expenses associated with keeping the lights on. Further, there is little capacity for businesses to complete complex application forms or meet burdensome reporting requirements, so we urge that you make the mechanisms to apply for support and to receive disbursements be as simple as possible.

With limited state funds at your disposal, and numerous needs, we know you will confront difficult decisions. That is where our Chambers of Commerce can assist. We can share our perspectives, based on direct interaction with struggling business leaders. We also welcome the opportunity to facilitate further dialogue with the business community on the tradeoffs between different support mechanisms. Please reach out to us throughout the Special Session for our assistance in this manner.

Again, we are thankful that Governor Polis and the State Legislature recognize the plight of our local Colorado businesses and their workforce due to restrictions on their activities in the face of our fight against COVID-19. We look forward to helping make this Special Session as productive and positively impactful as possible. With those goals in mind, we thank you for your attention to our recommendations for legislative action and look forward to supporting your efforts.

We’re in this with you, together!

John Tayer
President & CEO



Sam Taylor
President & CEO



Vicki Trumbo
Executive Director



Peter Salas
Board of Directors



Scott Cook
CEO



Shelley Angell
Executive Director



T.J. Sullivan
Executive Director

