

September 5, 2023

Dear Mr. Highley and Directors,

We are elected officials representing many levels of government – state and local – in Colorado, from the Eastern Plains to the Front Range to the West Slope. The communities we represent are diverse, urban, rural and suburban both within and outside of Tri-State Generation and Transmission's service territory. We are reaching out to you today regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's New ERA (Empowering Rural America) funding opportunities for rural cooperatives and electricity providers. The New Era program has the potential to benefit your co-op members and our state as a whole.

Many Tri-State member co-ops are already preparing to submit Letters of Interest to take advantage of the \$9.7 billion available for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through New ERA funding.

For those co-ops planning on applying, we thank you for your proactive dedication to meeting member needs by seeking funding to lower costs, utilize local energy where possible, build resilience, and support local economies. Funding made available through New ERA and other Inflation Reduction Act programs will be transformative for rural America.

We would also like to publicly thank Tri-State for its hard work and steadfast support last year to ensure that this historic level of funding for rural cooperatives was included in the Inflation Reduction Act and the New Era program.

With potential to secure more than a billion dollars for Colorado through the New ERA program, we encourage all of Colorado's Tri-State member co-ops to take full advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transition our rural communities to a clean, affordable energy future.

We support Tri-State's efforts to secure as much federal funding as possible on two main fronts: First, building out our clean energy system will bring numerous benefits to our rural communities. Second, refinancing and retiring expensive debt in increasingly uneconomic generating capacity can make way for new wind, solar and storage projects. New ERA funds will enable Tri-state to provide low-cost energy across its network, invest in grid resilience and modernization, and implement carbon reduction strategies that are so important for our future.

As elected officials, we look forward to working with you to lower costs for consumers, support local economies, and meet Colorado's energy needs while achieving our state's bold greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Sincerely,

Judy Amabile, State Representative - HD 49
Laurie Anderson, City Councilor - Broomfield
Keith Baker, County Commissioner - Chaffee County
Tim Barnes, City Councilor - Lafayette
Karen Bigelow, City Councilor - Thornton
Andrew Boesenecker, State Representative - HD 53
Oliver Bosmans, City Councilor - Aurora
Anne Brown, County Commissioner - San Miguel County
Kyle Brown, State Representative - HD12
Janet Buckner, State Senator - SD 29
Jessica Burley, Town Council Member - Frisco
Tricia Canonico, City Councilor - Ft. Collins
Guyleen Castriotta, Mayor - Broomfield
John Clark, Mayor - Ridgeway
Lisa Cutter, State Senator - SD 20
Lydia DeHaven, City Councilor - Cortez
Paloma Delgadillo, City Councilor - City and County of Broomfield
Monica Duran, State Representative - HD 23
Dan Enright, Town Council Member - Telluride
Tony Exum, State Senator - SD 11
Obi Ezeadi, City Councilor - Westminster
Jeff Fielder, County Commissioner - Lake County
Boe Freeburn, City Councilor - Gunnison
Lorena Garcia, State Representative - HD 35
Katherine Goff, City Councilor - Northglenn
Julie Gonzales, State Senator - SD 35
Chris Hansen, State Senator - SD31
Eva Henry, County Commissioner - Adams County
Nick Hinrichsen, State Senator - SD 3
Rachel Hultin, City Councilor - Wheat Ridge
Matt Johnston, City Councilor - Brighton
Junie Joseph, State Representative - HD 10
Cathy Kipp, State Representative - HD 52
Jean Lim, City Councilor - Broomfield
William Lindstedt, State Representative - HD 33
Marta Loachamin, County Commissioner - Boulder County
Javier Mabrey, State Representative - HD 1
Jason MacMillan, Mayor Pro-Tem - Crested Butte
George Marlin, County Commissioner - Clear Creek County
Tisha Mauro, State Representative - HD 46
Julia Marvin, City Councilor - Thornton
Dafna Michaelson Jenet, State Senator

Randy Moorman, City Councilor - Arvada
Susan Noble, City Councilor - Commerce City
Sarah Nurmela, City Councilor - Westminster
Kevin Priola, State Senator - SD 13
Robert Rodriguez, State Senator - SD 32
Matt Scherr, County Commissioner - Eagle County
Bonnie Sellers, City Councilor - Federal Heights
Jeslin Shahrezaei, City Councilor - Lakewood
Marc Snyder, State Representative - HD 18
Jonathan Staufer, Town Council Member - Vail
Kristen Stephens, County Commissioner - Larimer County
Tammy Story, State Representative - HD 25
Tom Sullivan, State Senator - SD 27
JJ Trout, Mayor Pro-Tem - Golden
Elizabeth Velasco, State Representative - HD 57
Steph Vigil, State Representative - HD 16
Austin Ward, City Councilor - City and County of Broomfield
Lance Waring, County Commissioner - San Miguel County
Mike Weissman, State Representative - HD 36
Jenny Wilford, State Representative - HD34
Faith Winter, State Senator - SD 25
Steve Woodrow, State Representative - HD 2