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February 4, 2020

Representative Dylan Roberts, Chair  
House Rural Affairs & Agriculture Committee  
Colorado General Assembly, HCR 107  
200 E Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB20-1003 – Rural Jump-start Zone Act Modifications

Dear Chairman Roberts and Members of the Committee:

The Routt County Board of Commissioners supports HB20-1003, which extends the Rural Jump-Start program for an additional five years.

Since the inception of Rural Jump-Start, Routt County has been a supporter because the program develops partnerships among institutions of higher education, start-up businesses and local government to facilitate economic development. Routt County recognizes engagement in economic development activity can increase the diversity of business sectors and expansion of existing commerce in Routt County.

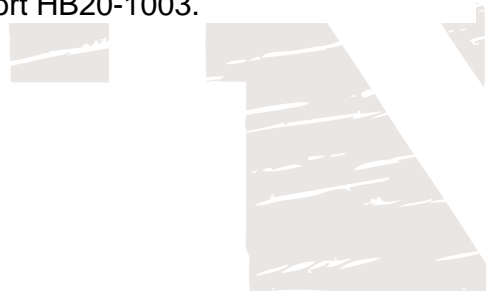
Routt County has 1 business that has been approved through the Rural Jump-Start program. However, Routt County's economy continues to lag behind that of the Denver-metro area and northern Colorado communities. Extending the program would allow Routt County to continue to diversify and increase economic development.

Additionally, HB20-1003 would help rural, distressed economies by changing the existing competition clause to specify that program benefits cannot compete with an existing business in a rural jump-start zone including counties that border one another.

We respectfully request that this Committee support HB20-1003.

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Timothy V. Corrigan, Chair





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