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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 22, 2009

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Karen Bahn
Contracting Officer
EMCBC
U.S. Department of Energy
FOA148@emcbc.doe.gov

RE: Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grants: Retrofit Ramp-up and General Innovation Fund Programs, Topic 2 Funding Opportunity Announcement Number DE-FOA-0000148, issued on October 19, 2009

Dear Ms. Bahn:

I am writing to express my support of Eagle County's application for \$5 million in EECBG funding for its first-in-the-nation rural PACE program. Energy efficiency, green retrofits, and weatherization of our existing housing are critically important both to the United States and to rural resorts such as Vail and Beaver Creek. Our mountain ecologies are extremely sensitive to climate change. Residences, both vacation and primary, constitute a heavily weighted part of my constituents' local economies, and the dwelling's use of fossil fuels and their greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced substantially from existing levels through financially sound energy improvements.

Eagle County also has many contractors who are out of work. Efforts to redirect this skilled workforce into green building and retrofit practices serves dual purposes: they help to preserve our delicate climate while redirecting employment to more sustainable practices.

Furthermore, mountain communities have relatively small permanent populations, and the partnerships that the community in Eagle has formed with Pitkin County, Gunnison County, and the Governor's Energy Office with regard to innovative green initiatives provide a successful template for rural and resort communities across the county for future replication.

I wish to convey my full support of Eagle County's application for EECBG funding, and ask that their proposal be given full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

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