



House Bill 20-1003 Testimony
Bill: Rural Jump-start Zone Act Modifications
Schedule: 1/27/2020 1:30pm HCR 0107
Committee: House Rural Affairs & Agriculture

Good afternoon members of the Rural Affairs and Agriculture

**Committee. My name is Sam Bailey and I serve as Vice President of
Economic Development for the Metro Denver Economic Development
Corporation, an affiliate of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.**

**I am here today representing the Metro Denver Economic
Development Corporation, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce,
and it's nearly 3,000 members, in support of House Bill 20 – 1003
concerning the Rural Jump-Start Zone Act Modifications.**

**The Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation represents
nine counties and seventy communities across Colorado's front range
providing business recruitment, retention, and expansion services in
partnership with local, county, and state partners. While not one of
our communities is eligible to be identified as a Rural Jump Start**

Zone, we acknowledge the importance of this program for economic development organizations across Colorado.

The existing Rural Jump Start program provided a step forward in enhancing efforts to attract net new full-time jobs, capital investment, and innovation to rural communities in Colorado. As a Board Member for the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, Mesa County's leading economic development organization, I have seen how this program has accelerated that community's ability to recruit and create quality job opportunities for Coloradans.

The changes proposed in House Bill 20-1003 reflect enhancements to the program that will support greater participation from economic development partners, utilization from growing companies, and accountability for the benefits provided for companies that create and maintain quality jobs in designated Rural Jump Start Zones.

Specifically, changes to the competitive clause create greater access to companies locating in rural communities that meet the program

requirements. The modification from a company meeting the statewide competitive clause to not competing with a company in a distressed county contiguous to the Rural Jump Start Zone where the company is operating creates greater access for primary employers that meet the program requirements.

Furthermore, the inclusion of economic development organizations will allow for greater utilization in locations that do not have a participating higher-educational partner.

These changes better enable economic development organizations and communities to attract, expand, and retain primary employment opportunities to rural locations across Colorado.

The Metro Denver EDC does not recognize any community or county within Colorado as a competitor, but rather a partner. Opportunities like Rural Jump Start, and the proposed modifications, enable our partners across Colorado to compete nationally and globally to attract

good-paying jobs and innovative businesses that strengthen their economic vitality.

Again, on behalf of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to support House Bill 20-1003 concerning the Rural Jump-Start Zone Act Medications. We thank the Rural Affairs and Agriculture Committee for its time in understanding our support for this legislation and I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.