

JOE NEGUSE
2ND DISTRICT, COLORADO



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CLIMATE CRISIS

April 28, 2021

Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Implementation and Capacity Building project in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Jefferson County Open Space located at 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Ste. 100, Golden, CO 8040.

The funding would be used for implementation and capacity building to address wildfire risk in Jefferson County. The project would complete 85 acres of fuels reduction on Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) Alderfer & Elk Meadow properties. Catastrophic wildfire risk in Colorado is extremely high, following decades of active fire suppression that resulted in high forest-floor fuel loads and high densities of trees and ladder fuels. In Jefferson County, fires ignite almost annually with at least 14 significant fires of more than 50 acres which burned 175,341 acres since 1996. The areas targeted for treatment in this proposal rank among the highest priority areas in Jefferson County based on the Forest Health Plan being developed for JCOS by the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University. The combined populations of Evergreen and Conifer exceed 17,500 people. The capacity building project will elevate community level wildfire awareness and preparedness among residents of Evergreen, Conifer, and outlying communities. It will facilitate increased participation in neighborhood residential fire-resistance actions, increased awareness of fire-safe behaviors, and increased awareness of/participation in wildfire evacuation planning.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Neguse".

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress