Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2016

Chairman Thad Cochran
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Vice Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Hal Rogers
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

We write in support of adequate funding for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) account (23 U.S.C. § 125) to address disaster relief and mitigation projects in Colorado.

According to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the ER account is facing a significant shortfall of available funds to allocate to eligible requests from multiple states. It is likely that several recent natural disasters around the country will only add to this problem.

CDOT has informed our offices that it could be 20 years for our state to receive sufficient funding through the ER account to complete the remaining projects from the 2013 floods. Our communities and our state economy cannot risk waiting 20 years to permanently repair our infrastructure. In fact, significant delays in completing permanent repairs will put at risk the temporary repairs made in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, potentially costing additional taxpayer dollars.

As a delegation, we look forward to working with you and the entire Committee in any way possible to find a solution to this critical issue facing Colorado and many states across the country.

Sincerely,

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

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Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress