



February 13, 2025

U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Help unlock \$1.4 million in federal funds to reduce energy costs in Colorado's rural mountain communities and advocate for impactful federal funding

Dear Senator Bennet:

The newly appointed Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright, recently closed his first Secretarial Order, stating that the **DOE intends to reduce energy costs for American families and businesses.**

In October 2023, Aspen partnered with the nonprofit Energy Smart Colorado and other local jurisdictions to receive **\$1.4 million in federal funds for communities across our region to reduce energy costs** through the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. While the current administration has paused some Inflation Reduction Act spending, the DOE assured us that our awards were obligated, committed, and disbursed. Yet, Energy Smart Colorado **has not yet been able to access these funds** and has had to pause weatherization rebates and direct support to partners. We are asking for your **support in helping us access these funds.**

In a similar regional collaborative effort in 2023, Aspen partnered again with Energy Smart Colorado and was awarded a DOE Buildings Upgrade Phase 1 prize – a **\$400,000 award to address the housing affordability crisis and clean energy transition in rural Colorado** by promoting weatherization and electrification upgrades among low-to-moderate-income households. Our collaborative also planned to submit a Phase 2 application this March– an impactful \$400,000 award for which only Phase 1 recipients can apply. However, this Phase 2 opportunity is now in question. Therefore, we are also asking for your **support in advocating for the future of these impactful funding opportunities** that reduce energy costs for our communities.

Please help us unlock the funds contracted and obligated to our regional partners at Energy Smart Colorado and help us advocate for continued funding to reduce energy burdens for underserved households in Colorado's rural mountain communities

Sincerely,

Torre
Mayor of the City of Aspen