



Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1177--The Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant Program. I come today representing both the Economic Development Council of Colorado and the Town of Limon.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I am today representing the Economic Development Council of Colorado which is dedicated to successful, responsible economic development. EDCC represents the economic development profession in Colorado and reflects the economic development interests of the state's public and private sectors.

The Economic Development Council of Colorado urges you to approve this bill and looks forward to using this tool as we work daily to recruit and retain rural businesses for Colorado: Businesses that create jobs and grown Colorado's economy. Many of the existing economic development programs in Colorado do not meet the unique economies of rural Colorado. For the past two years, this concept has been already proven to work. The original Rural Economic Development Initiative program successfully spurred almost \$6 million in projects and 86 new jobs across the state.