

# DC Fly-In Talking Points

## **Water & Natural Resources**

Ensure water sufficiency for future growth.

Work to address Colorado River basin water shortages and drought mitigation

Support federal efforts to fund wildfire mitigation

EPA should recognize background ozone from western wildfires and offer more flexibility in mitigation actions

## **Defense**

Support PACT Act-expansion of VA healthcare and benefits for vets affected by burn pits

Pikes Peak area Basic Allowance for Housing very low compared to other major military towns

Need additional childcare options for DoD personnel - capacity not adequate on or off base

Holds on promotions affecting military families, also enlisted support personnel

Keep Space Command in Colorado Springs, fight efforts from Alabama delegation contesting decision

More aggressively include industry in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) legislation to facilitate keeping more people in the Pikes Peak Region

## **Cyber**

Continued funding and support for cybersecurity initiatives.

Support for security and hardening of critical national assets from cyber attack.

Support more resources to expedite credentialing for secure facilities (SCIFs) more rapidly

Security Clearances- Expedite security clearance timelines and reduce cost to employers who seek clearances

## **Transportation**

COS Airport-COS airport is optimized to take traffic pressure off DIA and serve the needs of Southern Colorado regionally

We would like to see COS airport prioritized in FAA spending for support and expansion

Roads- Southern Colorado should receive our fair share of highways funds and receive prioritization accordingly

Rail- Support for Southern Rail Project and Fort Carson Rail project additional spur

## **Education**

Better metric for K-12 competitiveness. We need better ways to compare state education systems, DoD evaluations should be realistic, fair and utilize standard rubric

## **Economic Development**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has several barriers to both industry and the job seeker. Let's ensure that there are processes in place that will allow this funding to move at the speed of business.

We must ensure that the WIOA program removes barriers rather than creating them for the underserved groups that they serve.

With the federal government's prioritization of clean energy, they must find a way to support the utility providers that are implementing these policies.

The Colorado Springs Chamber & Economic Development Corporation prioritizes talent recruitment and retention, as do many other organizations throughout the country. In order to stay competitive as a region and nation the federal government needs to provide support.

Describe what actions are being taken to ensure that the process for Chambers and Economic Development Corporations to access workforce funding is being made easier.

Inform us on how Chambers and other organizations can partner with the American Jobs Centers.

## **Delegation “Thank you”**

### **All:**

Space Command basing support  
Urging IRS to keep TABOR refunds tax exempt

### **Sen. Bennet**

Supporting funds for upper Colorado River basin drought mitigation  
Supporting funds for wildfire recovery efforts  
Supporting funding for Southern Colorado water infrastructure

### **Sen. Hickenlooper**

Cybersecurity field hearings in Pikes Peak Region  
Supporting funds for upper Colorado River basin drought mitigation  
Sponsored legislation for expanded satellite data sharing

### **Rep. Neguse**

Securing water resources, work on Colorado River Basin Issues  
Support for CO outdoor recreation industry  
Support for DOT funding of front range passenger rail

### **Rep. Pettersen**

Mental health & substance abuse disorder recovery support legislation, work on mental health task force  
Yes In My Back Yard (YIMBY) Act cosponsor in House, support for affordable housing

### **Rep. Lamborn**

Vote to fully fund veteran benefits  
Work on bipartisan Indo-pacific task force