January 14, 2019

The Honorable Joe Neguse  
United States House of Representatives  
1419 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Neguse,

On behalf of the City of Boulder and the Boulder Chamber, thank you for your support to end the government shutdown. As you know, Boulder is fortunate to have more than a dozen federally funded laboratories located in the city, including:

- Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES)  
- Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR)  
- JILA  
- Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP)  
- National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)  
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
- National Solar Observatory (NSO)  
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)  
- UNAVCO  
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)

These labs and the research they conduct are not only critically important to national endeavors, but also to our state and local economy. The government shut down is having, and will continue to have, a significant impact on our community, in addition to the researchers and staff they employ. These facilities and the people that work there are integral parts of our community.

In March 2017, CO-LABS released a study by CU’s Leeds School of Business entitled, “Economic Contribution of Federally Funded Research Facilities in Colorado, FY2013-FY2015.” According to the report, in FY2015 the total number of federal lab jobs located in Boulder County was 3,883. Salaries and benefits of workers at labs in Boulder totaled of $388 million. The economic impact of the federal labs in Boulder County totaled $1.1 billion, led to $689 million in value added, and supported 7,627 jobs.

Boulder highly values the scientific contributions the labs and their employees have made to the entire nation, as well as the economic benefit they provide our community. These institutions work closely with researchers from the University of Colorado in Boulder and Colorado State University in nearby Fort Collins. This synergy is found only in a very few other places in the United States.
Just as the labs generate direct benefits (employment, local spending) and associated indirect activity through an economic multiplier effect, the opposite holds true for funding reductions. According to CU’s Leeds School of Business, for every job lost at these federal laboratories, an additional 1.17 jobs will be lost in Colorado. For every $1 million in funding cuts to the labs, an additional $1.13 million in economic impact will be lost. Perhaps even more troubling, our national capacity for research and innovation will be damaged by lay-offs of scientists and researchers, jeopardizing new advanced technologies, future businesses formed to commercialize developing technologies, and our global competitiveness.

Due to the federal shutdown, these federal workers will not be receiving their next paycheck. The longer the government goes unfunded, the more our citizens will be forced to make tough decisions, miss bill payments, go into debt, and struggle to put food on the table. Many government employees may begin to look elsewhere for more reliable job opportunities.

Additionally, the ripple effects of the shutdown will harm the city’s broader economy and community. The Boulder labs are home to scientific research in the fields of electromagnetics, materials reliability, optoelectronics, quantum electronics and physics and more. The unique and highly specialized research being conducted at the Boulder labs has supported the development of a vibrant economy with a focus on aerospace, telecommunication, bioscience, renewable energy and IT-software. These industries developed and benefit from easy access to federally funded labs and the researchers who work there. Companies in our region will face an economic shock and decreased financial stability the longer the Boulder labs are shut down and their projects delayed.

The government shutdown directly impacts Boulder. Our economy has developed around, and relies heavily on, the federally funded research labs in our city. A prolonged shutdown will only intensify the negative impacts our community is already feeling. We encourage you to continue to work with your colleagues to support passing appropriations bills that fund these labs and reopen the government.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or to discuss the matter further.

Regards,

Suzanne Jones
Mayor, City of Boulder

John Tayer
President, The Boulder Chamber
January 14, 2019

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

On behalf of the City of Boulder and the Boulder Chamber, thank you for your support to end the government shutdown. As you know, Boulder is fortunate to have more than a dozen federally funded laboratories located in the city, including:

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Regards,

Suzanne Jones
Mayor, City of Boulder

John Tayer
President, The Boulder Chamber
January 14, 2019

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the City of Boulder and the Boulder Chamber, thank you for your support to end the government shutdown. Ending this shutdown is important to our region. As you know, Boulder is fortunate to have more than a dozen federally funded laboratories located in the city, including:

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