



April 27, 2026

Members of the Colorado General Assembly
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Support for HB26-1416: Reallocation to Support Small Business

Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

On Friday morning, the members of the House Committee on Appropriations made a significant step in assisting Colorado small businesses by approving HB26-1416: Reallocation to Support Small Business. The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) strongly urges your support for this bill as it comes before the State House and Senate this week.

Across our region—including Moffat, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Montrose, Delta, Grand and Mesa counties—we are actively reshaping our economic future, and small businesses are at the heart of this transition. With more than 99% of Colorado businesses classified as small businesses, the support provided by the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network is the lifeblood of local economies.

Colorado's economy is experiencing a period of increased uncertainty, leaving local businesses increasingly vulnerable to economic disruption. At the same time, the Colorado SBDC Network has experienced delays in federal funding throughout 2025 and has not yet received its 2026 allocation, placing operations—particularly rural service centers—at risk. State funding through HB26-1416 is crucial to helping ensure rural businesses maintain access to the SBDC's essential services, including no-cost 1:1 advising, disaster preparedness, access to capital, and workforce development and retention strategies.

This support also aligns with AGNC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), including regional priorities to strengthen entrepreneurial and small business support, expand access to capital, and build long-term economic resilience across Northwest Colorado. These strategies are especially important in rural communities where consistent technical assistance can directly support business retention, expansion, and transition.

Northwest Colorado is a place of resilience and grit, and AGNC works collaboratively with local governments, partners, and communities to ensure the region's future remains strong. AGNC respectfully urges a yes vote on HB26-1416 so that small businesses in Northwest Colorado and across the state can continue to receive this vital support.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and attention to this urgent request.

Respectfully,

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Cody Davis
AGNC Chair
Mesa County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Overton', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Doug Overton
AGNC Vice-Chair
Rio Blanco County Commissioner