



September 8, 2020

The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4329
Re: Support for the Research Investment to Spark the Economy "RISE" Act

Dear Representative DeGette,

I'm writing to voice support for the Research Investment to Spark the Economy "RISE" Act you are sponsoring as a crucial and urgent investment in America's foundation of scientific research during the COVID-19 pandemic. The role that graduate students, postdocs, principal investigators and other technical support staff serve as part of our nation's innovation and discovery efforts cannot be overstated; maintaining their involvement as partners, contractors and employees to our federal research laboratories and joint university research institutes is a prudent, savvy decision that will help our country get through this public health crisis.

Specifically, in Colorado, we recognize that the RISE Act would allow relevant federal agencies to award research grants and cooperative agreements to colleges or universities to conduct research on the behavioral, social or economic effects of COVID-19 and the responses to the disease, as well as the effectiveness of such responses. We are grateful to be home to some of the country's most advanced COVID-19 research, ranging from vaccine and medical treatments to virulence modeling to environmental assessments via brilliant work currently underway at Colorado State University, the CSU Infectious Disease Research Center, CU Boulder & CU Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, as well as a range of related research at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research labs, numerous National Science Foundation-funded research organizations and other federal agencies.

The RISE Act would also ensure scientific research can continue (or indeed, be re-started) across a spectrum of topics that are being impacted by new distancing and access protocols borne of the risks of COVID-19. We cannot allow field research, site visits, laboratory access and related activities to simply cease if there are safe and functional ways to maintain observance, data collection and hands-on research. Our nation's prosperity and innovation-driven economy depends on this fundamental scientific work; the RISE Act would be a prudent investment.

CO-LABS appreciates this bipartisan proposal to fund scientific research across the country and we are grateful for your support of the world-class scientific research ecosystem in Colorado.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Powers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Powers
Executive Director
CO-LABS, Inc.
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C.C. – Reps. Jason Crow, Joe Neguse & Ed Perlmutter

CO-LABS, incorporated in 2007, is a non-profit consortium of federally funded scientific laboratories, universities and colleges, businesses and economic development experts organized to nurture and champion Colorado as a global leader in scientific research, technology, and related commercialization. Through events, economic analyses, strategic communications and networking activities we work to:

- PROMOTE Colorado’s research ecosystem as a global center in research and technology
- EDUCATE the public about the labs’ impact and importance of sustained funding for research
- CONNECT the labs, universities and businesses to facilitate partnerships and technology transfer

See more at www.co-labs.org.