

MICHAEL F. BENNET  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC:  
261 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:  
CESAR E. CHAVEZ BUILDING  
1244 SPEER BOULEVARD  
DENVER, CO 80204  
(303) 455-7600

<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>

January 20, 2022

Deputy Assistant Secretary Rachel M. Arndt  
Passport Services Directorate  
U.S. Department of State  
600 19th Street NW, Fourth Floor  
Washington DC 20006

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Arndt:

On December 30, 2021, the Marshall Fire devastated communities in the towns of Superior and Louisville and other parts of unincorporated Boulder County in Colorado, destroying or damaging nearly 1,300 homes and structures. As families recover from losing their physical belongings, including government issued identification, I ask you to waive the fees required to reissue passports that were lost during the Marshall Fire to aid victims in their recovery.

Ahead of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden's visit to survey the damage on January 7, 2022, I asked U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to waive fees for replacing important documents, such as visas and green cards. USCIS assured me that it would waive fees, and quickly followed up with an application that could be utilized while the agency updated its policy. I ask that you follow USCIS's lead and update your policy to waive costs associated with the replacement of passports lost or destroyed in the Marshall Fire. I also request that you provide me with an assurance of this waiver by Monday, January 24, 2022, to quickly support the victims.

Should you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Santiago Gonzalez in my office at [Santiago\\_Gonzalez@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:Santiago_Gonzalez@bennet.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator