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U.S. SENATOR *for* COLORADO

## **RESILIENT Act**

*Reforming, Expanding, and Simplifying Investment for Local Infrastructure  
to Enhance our Neighborhoods and Towns Act*

**Summary:** Rural communities across Colorado, and our nation, face many of the same infrastructure challenges as larger communities, but often do so with fewer resources. This is heightened when local leaders who have the best ideas are left to navigate an often-inaccessible federal bureaucracy. The RESILIENT Act will streamline federal infrastructure delivery and provide dedicated, up-front support, making it easier for rural towns and communities across America to plan and invest in infrastructure.

### **Key Provisions**

#### **Invests in Local Capacity and Collaborative Solutions**

→ *Funding for on-site technical assistance teams*, based on successful Colorado models, to assist small towns across the Country in strategic planning, design, and implementation of water, transportation and broadband infrastructure projects. The teams would see a project through from start to finish.

→ *Reduces the Cost of Collaborative and Innovative Projects* by providing predevelopment grants to overcome higher planning costs that may be associated with regionally coordinated projects or projects that combine and address multiple infrastructure needs at once (“bundled” or “dig once” projects).

#### **Simplifies Federal Bureaucracy**

→ *Establishes a One-Stop-Shop for Rural Infrastructure*, creating the “Rural Partnership Office” at USDA, available to all rural communities as a single, easily accessible portal for federal funding, resources, best-practices, and additional technical support.

→ *Improves Access to Federal Agencies*, by dedicating staff at each federal infrastructure agency to rural communities, so that small towns have an advocate who will work for them. Instead of hearing “no”, and getting turned away from federal opportunities, liaisons will help find a way to yes.

#### **Empowers Local Leaders and Innovative Projects**

→ *Unlocks Collaboration and Coordination*, by establishing a pilot program for small towns and rural areas who want to do more at once by combining multiple infrastructure needs into a single project.

→ *Funding Flexibility for Rural Areas*, by providing longer repayment terms, more options for State Revolving Fund dollars, reducing local match requirements, extending repayment periods, and waiving application fees for WIFIA and TIFIA in rural areas.

#### **Reduces Costs and Unnecessary Burdens**

→ *Limits Costly Requirements* by simplifying and standardizing the application process across agencies, and asking federal agencies to evaluate and remove barriers to rural infrastructure development.

→ *Encourages Fiscal Sustainability and Compliance*, by allowing communities to pursue voluntary partnerships to bring their water systems back into compliance, and assisting small rural water systems who are working on a path towards fiscal sustainability.

**Supporters:** Colorado Rural Water Association, Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), Colorado Municipal League, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Colorado Wheat, San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, and BPC Action.