

All requests for CDS must include one letter of support from either state, local governments, or tribal governments or community leaders that details the community benefits and support for the project.

Please email a PDF version of the letter of support to directedspending@bennet.senate.gov on or after April 8, 2022

Office of Colorado Senator Michael Bennet
Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building
1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Senator Bennet:

The City of Commerce City strongly supports the building of the Lake Mary Learning Center at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge as a Congressionally Directed Spending Request.

As more and more visitors pour into the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR), including many residents of Commerce City, we realize the vital need for more educational facilities at the refuge. The Visitor Center is a wonderful stopping off point to orient the visitor to the fishing, hiking, and driving experiences at the refuge. What is needed is a larger center devoted to an all-around nature educational experience which is what is envisioned for the Lake Mary Learning Center.

The Lake Mary Learning Center will allow local students and residents to access high quality environmental education in their backyard. Learning about bison, black-footed ferrets (the most endangered mammal in North America), bald eagles and the other wildlife found at the refuge will be only a part of the education offered. Highlighting the role of Native American through the Eagle Repository at the refuge and the role Native Americans played in the history of the refuge will be another vital learning experience. Providing access and supplies to the fishing areas of Lake Mary and Lake Ladora at the refuge will enhance the fishing experience. The Center will be a showcase for sustainable, efficient buildings and can demonstrate how we can address the larger issues of energy usage and global climate change. The benefits are tremendous!

The City of Commerce City is only one many beneficiaries of the proposed Lake Mary Learning Center. With the proper resources, our youth, families and neighbors will have access to an exceptional environmental learning experience. Nature education grows current and future citizens who are dedicated to protecting our natural resources. As our human population grows, respecting our public lands becomes a major priority.

The Lake Mary Learning Center at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge will provide unique and vital opportunities for our residents to learn, grow, and share.

Thank you for your support of the exciting Lake Mary Learning Center.

Sincerely Mayor