

August 17, 2015

Great Outdoors Colorado Board of Trustees
303 East 17th Avenue, Suite 1060
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Sirs and Madams:

We are writing a letter of support for the Northeast Metro Coalition grant proposal for the GOCO INSPIRE initiative. The coalition which includes communities, not-for-profits, and governments directly adjacent to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) is a coalition with grassroots community members, a strong vision, and the dedication to implement their mission of bringing high quality outdoor education and activities to the youth of their communities “wherever they live and regardless of resources.”

In the last fifteen years, Commerce City has added hundreds of acres of parks, open space and recreational opportunities to our city. Our residents are surrounded by amazing resources such as the RMANWR, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, and the South Platte River recreation area. With these wonderful outdoor resources directly at hand, the City of Commerce City constantly looks for way to engage our youth to take advantage of these resources.

We believe that the Northeast Metro Coalition is the group to study and bring down the barriers to youth engagement with the outdoors, especially our City’s youth, some of whom have not had the opportunities because of economic or geographic barriers.

With the GOCO INSPIRE planning grant, the coalition will involve the youth in our community in the planning process, so youth can determine what programs, field trips, and outdoor opportunities will interest and inspire them. We take great pride in the activism of our young people, and know that their involvement will make the Coalition’s program better and more effective.

Commerce City has many of the same issues facing other communities in Colorado. We have wonderful resources close by, but there are many barriers to getting youth outdoors and growing their love of nature. This planning grant will help identify these barriers and develop programs that will bring youth and the outdoors together.

We appreciate your careful consideration of the planning grant proposal from the Northeast Metro Coalition. We believe that the diverse and wise partners of the Coalition will provide exceptional outcomes for the INSPIRE initiative for GOCO and the citizens of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Sean Ford, Mayor