

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

Rural Business Development Grant Program
Rural Development
US Department of Agriculture

February 27, 2024

Re: Letter of support for Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center (RMEOC) Application

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to provide a letter of support for the Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center (RMEOC) in their application for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant.

Huerfano County Administrator is supportive of RMEOC's proposal to offer succession planning technical assistance to retiring business owners in our County. Providing them with knowledge of employee ownership as an option will save jobs, create economic development and resilience, and preserve the wealth our community has worked so hard to build.

RMEOC has been actively working with residents in Gardner to help open a food cooperative store, and has served as a technical assistance expert who completed a feasibility study, coordinated outreach, and is currently accompanying us in the implementation of the project. We would like to continue to partner with RMEOC and benefit from their expertise in innovative economic development strategy.

Building a sustainable ecosystem of support for succession planning is a priority. Through this project, RMEOC will fill a long-standing need and set a precedent for a model that we would like to see spread wider. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

John Galusha, Chairman

Arica Andreatta, Commissioner

Karl Sporleder, Commissioner

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