



Please vote YES on SB 16-63

County Authority to Enter Into Intergovernmental Agreements with Local Governments Across State Lines

Sponsors: Sen. Roberts/Rep. Vigil

Counties and municipalities are oftentimes the first responders during natural disasters, and have worked hard to partner with their neighboring jurisdictions to plan and prepare for how responses to disasters like floods and wildfires will be coordinated. Intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) between neighboring local governments are an effective way to detail how response to emergencies will be handled in advance of a disaster event, and prevent costly delays and confusion as a disaster unfolds.

Unfortunately, disasters do not respect state borders. La Plata County, in Southwest Colorado, has suffered through not only multiple cross-border wildfires, but also the Gold King Mine disaster, where millions of gallons of mine waste was discharged into the Animas River. This river flows through La Plata County and into San Juan County, New Mexico. State law does not permit counties to enter into IGAs with neighboring jurisdictions that are outside of Colorado, and this has prevented the county from formalizing a partnership with the local governments across the border to better prepare and plan for emergency response.

SB 16-63 explicitly authorizes local governments to enter into IGAs with other local governments outside of Colorado in order to plan and prepare for emergency management and response. It also clearly lays out how issues like liability and governmental immunity will be handled during an emergency response across state lines.

CCI strongly urges your support of this legislation to allow local governments to effectively partner with cross-state partners to provide first-response during natural and man-made disasters.

CCI asks for your YES vote on SB 16-63

CCI Contact:

Pat Ratliff 303.668.0264 // patratliff.associates@gmail.com

Eric Bergman 303.861.4076 // ebergman@ccionline.org