



February 27, 2024

Mike Johnston  
Office of the Mayor  
City and County of Denver  
Denver, CO 80202  
201 W Colfax Ave.

RE: Moffat County's position on not accepting new asylum-seeking individuals or providing aid for immigration-related challenges

Dear Mayor Johnston:

The Board of Moffat County Commissioners is writing in response to the significant challenges faced by the City of Denver due to the recent influx of asylum-seeking immigrants and its call for aid. This became a concern to us due to the intentions of the State and City of Denver to share the overflowing burden with other cities and counties in the State.

We appreciate Denver's intention to tackle the immigrant issues as a stated Sanctuary City, but we must be clear and communicate Moffat County's inability to extend aid.

Our decision to not accept asylum-seeking individuals into Moffat County stems not from a lack of empathy or understanding but from fiscal responsibility and the constraints and challenges we face within our jurisdiction.

Like many others, Moffat County is working diligently to address various pressing local concerns that demand our immediate attention and resources. These include but are not limited to, public health and safety and the economic well-being of our citizens. Our current focus must remain on addressing these critical needs, leaving us unable to extend support beyond our county's citizens.

Community resources within Moffat County are strained as we are facing a 46% reduction in our annual property tax revenue with the closures of our power plant and coal mines. At the same time, our healthcare and educational systems face financial strains, with substantial losses in indigent care and lower-than-average state funding for schools. It would be cruel to redirect resources to others when we struggle to care for our most vulnerable citizens.

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**Melody Villard**  
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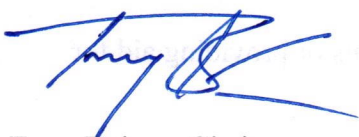
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Moffat County will not turn its back on its citizens. We will not siphon resources from our citizens to support those who have not completed the process of becoming legally recognized citizens in our country.

Offering aid without the financial means, resources, or a sustainable plan to support those seeking asylum is unethical and irresponsible governance. Good intentions must be backed by practical capabilities — Moffat County does not have the resources or desire to give false hope.

Sincerely,



Tony Bohrer, Chair  
Commissioner, District 1