

*Michael B. Hancock*  
Mayor



*City and County of Denver*

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August 21, 2015

Dear Community Leaders,

It is an honor that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Americas Latino Eco Festival (ALEF) will find its home in the Mile High City. The City and County Denver, along with our partners at Metropolitan State University of Denver and History Colorado, is proud to host this gathering of national and international Latino and environmental leaders and community members of all ages.

The Latino community in Denver and in the state has a long and rich history, and ALEF strives to inspire stewardship for the environment by enhancing the connection of Latinos with nature and the outdoors through education on the environmental issues that impact their health and well being, as well as exploring ways they can make positive change in their communities. In particular, The Climate of Hope training will prepare leaders to communicate and organize their community to take action, while the *Discover Mi Tierra* family day on Saturday will celebrate past and present Latino connections to nature and the outdoors while informing attendees on environmental issues through art and music.

This year's festival theme, "Climate of Hope," captures the optimism inspired by the recent release of the Clean Power Plan here in the United States and the upcoming 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in November (COP21). Recently, I joined with other mayors from across the country in the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, where we not only supported the President for his leadership on climate change, but also called on him for the strongest possible agreement to come out of COP21. However, we recognize that we cannot solely rely on national and international powers to solve this enormous challenge. Across the nation, cities and communities are taking action to protect our climate for generations we will never meet. The Annual Americas Latino Eco Festival is a spectacular example of one such effort.

I hope you will join me in supporting and welcoming this important event to Colorado.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hancock", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael B. Hancock  
Mayor