



Conservation Colorado

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 23-1134 “Require Electric Options In Home Warranties” sponsored by Representatives Junie Joseph and Cathy Kipp and Senator Lisa Cutter. Conservation Colorado supports this bill as introduced.

House Bill 23-1134 will require home warranty service contracts to offer homeowners the option to replace a broken appliance with a new appliance that runs on electricity. It will allow a homeowner to receive a cash payment equivalent to the retail value of the gas-powered appliance in lieu of an electric replacement. And importantly, this bill will not have any fiscal impact.

As the impacts of climate change grow, we have to cut fossil fuel emissions from every sector of the economy. This includes our homes and businesses. Many buildings in Colorado use natural gas for heating and cooling which contributes to climate change. And the truth is: there is nothing natural about natural gas; its largest component is methane which is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to the warming of our planet. Gas-powered stoves, for example, have been found to leak methane into the environment. New research has shown that most leaks happen when the stove is off caused by loose coupling and fittings of the gas lines and pipes. Furthermore, Colorado’s greenhouse gas pollution reduction goals required by law require our natural gas use to go down. Failing to meet these goals opens us up to more climate emergencies that could adversely impact our health, environment, and economy.

Burning natural gas in our homes is also bad for our health. It can worsen asthma and other respiratory conditions, and even cause premature death. New research also found that over 10% of current childhood asthma in Colorado can be attributed to gas stove use. What this really means is that more than 10% of childhood asthma in Colorado is preventable if we move towards electric stoves and furnaces and energy-efficient upgrades.

The health burdens of gas-powered appliances in homes also fall heaviest on low-income populations and communities of color who may inhabit smaller and older homes, are less likely to have range hoods or other ventilation in place and tend to have higher existing rates of asthma.

This bill will give us the opportunity to start changing that. Homeowners that do want to move towards cleaner and healthier electric appliances should have the ability to do so. As such, Conservation Colorado urges a “yes” vote on House Bill 23-1134.

Sincerely,
Lorena Gonzalez, Climate Campaign Manager
Conservation Colorado