



March 15, 2023

House Energy & Environment Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB23-1234 Streamlining solar permitting and inspection grant program.

Dear Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee:

My name is Ann Sutton, living in Westminster CO. This testimony represents the position of the League of Women Voters of Colorado in Support of a bill that may encourage residents of smaller communities to adopt distributed solar energy for their homes. Installation costs may be reduced and certain delays may be mitigated by local jurisdictions' implementation of free permitting and inspection software with technical assistance as funded by the Colorado Energy Office.

Press and other media are reporting thousands of delays in grid connections for consumers who have already invested in solar energy. Electric suppliers blame the backlog, in part, on incorrectly filed applications by installers.

Since January, Xcel reports 4,000 solar interconnection applications awaiting review.

"They explained that the company experienced an unanticipated influx of applications in the fall of 2022, after the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, and the company during that period has rejected almost 4,000 applications as well, by installers due to incomplete applications," PUC Deputy Director Gene Camp said at the Feb. 15 meeting.

Ref: 9News **Next** February 23, 2023. <https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/next-with-kyle-clark/xcel-energy-punishment-for-solar-delays/73-56c16213-d958-4725-974c-495bb14b55e1>

We view this grant program as a welcome assist to local governments in helping their residents to obtain lower cost, cleaner energy for their homes in a timely manner with more efficient permitting and inspection.

The League supports predominant reliance on renewable energy and we support action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development.

We thank the sponsors for bringing this timely initiative to the legislature and thank the Committee for its careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Ann Sutton Volunteer Lobbyist
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