

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

SB24-126 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:

2

3 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general
4 assembly hereby finds and declares that:

5 (a) Over the last sixty years, Colorado families have conserved
6 over three million three hundred thousand acres of working farms,
7 ranches, and private lands across the state;

8 (b) Since 2000, Colorado has proactively invested in conservation
9 through the conservation easement tax credit program;

10 (c) The conservation easement tax credit program incentivizes
11 private landowners to voluntarily protect their properties, which creates
12 public benefits to Colorado's lands, waters, wildlife, and people.

13 (d) The benefits of conservation are unique and wide-ranging.
14 Conservation has contributed significantly to the protection of wildlife
15 habitat, critical wetlands, urban open space, and working farms and
16 ranches.

17 (e) The conservation easement tax credit program has aided
18 Colorado in reducing its carbon emissions and accomplishing its
19 biodiversity goals, while supporting rural economic resiliency, benefiting
20 all Coloradans;

21 (f) In pursuit of greater equity in conservation, it is crucial to
22 enhance programs that promote public benefits for all Coloradans; and

23 (g) Equity in conservation requires ongoing collaboration with
24 private landowners, state and federal public land managers, and counties
25 and municipalities. Underscoring and investing in the inclusion of
26 underserved communities, tribes, and historically marginalized land
27 interests will further amplify these efforts.

28 (2) Therefore, it is in the best interests of Coloradans to enhance
29 the conservation easement tax credit program.".

30 Renumber succeeding sections.

31 Page 2, line 2, after "12-15-103," insert "**amend** (1)(d) introductory
32 portion, (1)(d)(I), and (1)(d)(II);" and strike "(8)" and substitute, "(8); and
33 **add** (1)(d)(III) and (1)(d)(IV)".

34 Page 2, strike line 5 and substitute "**created**. (1) There is created in the
35 division a conservation easement oversight commission, referred to in this
36 article 15 as the "commission". The commission is a **type 2** entity, as
37 defined in section 24-1-105, and exercises its powers and performs its

1 duties and functions under the division. The commission consists of eight
2 members as follows:

3 (d) ~~Three~~ FIVE voting members appointed by the governor as
4 follows:

5 (I) Two voting representatives of certified conservation easement
6 holders; ~~and~~

7 (II) A voting individual who is competent and qualified to analyze
8 the conservation purpose of conservation easements; ~~and~~

9 (III) A VOTING INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS THE DEFINITION OF
10 "SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER" IN 7 U.S.C. SEC. 2279;
11 AND

12 (IV) A VOTING INDIVIDUAL WHO IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
13 GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, CREATED IN ARTICLE XXVII OF THE STATE
14 CONSTITUTION; AND

15 (8) ~~This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2026.~~".

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