

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0925.01 Jordan Fox x4755

HR26-1003

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 26-1003

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES.**

1 WHEREAS, Coloradans have long loved the great outdoors, and
2 we take tremendous pride in celebrating our natural heritage and being
3 stewards of the environment for future generations; and

4 WHEREAS, Coloradans have played leading roles in advocating
5 for environmental conservation and raising awareness for being good
6 stewards through local, state, national, and international awareness
7 initiatives; and

8 WHEREAS, John McConnell, a peace activist who resided in
9 Denver until his death in 2012, established the concept of Earth Day in
10 March 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, Soon afterward, in April 1970, U.S. Senator Gaylord
12 Nelson organized an environmental teach-in, which has since evolved
13 into the popular Earth Day celebrated on April 22 of each year in the
14 United States and throughout much of the world; and

15 WHEREAS, April 22, 2026, is the 56th annual celebration of

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 Earth Day, an occasion that draws attention to environmental issues and
2 programs, from recycling, energy efficiency, and conservation efforts in
3 Colorado communities to global environmental initiatives; and

4 WHEREAS, More than one billion people in over 190 countries
5 participate in Earth Day annually as a recommitment to the goals of a
6 healthy environment and a peaceful, just, and sustainable world; and

7 WHEREAS, On December 14, 2022, the United Nations General
8 Assembly adopted a binding resolution put forth by 106 countries
9 proclaiming International Day of Zero Waste be held on March 30 of
10 every year; and

11 WHEREAS, International Day of Zero Waste is an initiative to
12 raise awareness of waste-reduction efforts, promote sustainable
13 production and consumption, and encourage cities and rural areas alike
14 to adopt sustainable and environmentally sound management of waste,
15 including local and national waste-reduction initiatives; and

16 WHEREAS, This year's International Day of Zero Waste is
17 focused on food waste, with governments asked to explore how they can
18 help limit the nearly one billion tons of edible food thrown away each
19 year through adopting policies related to food circularity, composting, and
20 food measurement and monitoring; and

21 WHEREAS, The state of Colorado and our citizens recognize the
22 importance of clean air, outdoor recreation, and wildlife to the state's
23 economy, identity, and public health and are therefore committed to the
24 conservation and stewardship of our natural landscape, open space, rivers,
25 mountains, lakes, and sensitive ecosystems in accordance with celebrating
26 Earth Day; and

27 WHEREAS, Colorado fosters and encourages the development of
28 renewable energy to increase Colorado's supply of power and to bring
29 jobs and economic development to communities across the state; and

30 WHEREAS, Colorado has become a national leader in sustainable
31 living by instituting standards to ensure a prepared and educated
32 workforce to compete in the new energy economy; and

33 WHEREAS, Colorado has built a framework of public taxpayer
34 support for the new energy economy through the use of financial

1 incentives, including sales tax exemptions and refunds for renewable
2 energy investments, property tax exemptions for renewable energy
3 production, tax incentives to encourage the purchase of more
4 energy-efficient vehicles, and low-interest loans to help schools invest in
5 energy efficiency and renewable energy production; and

6 WHEREAS, The Colorado House of Representatives supports
7 efforts to deploy technologies that offer operational savings,
8 customer-choice energy management, improved grid reliability, greater
9 energy efficiency and conservation options, and increased use of
10 renewable energy sources; and

11 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives supports policies that
12 create vibrant neighborhoods, promote public transportation, and rely on
13 the principles of smart growth and community sustainability; and
14

15 WHEREAS, The United States is the world's largest generator of
16 municipal solid waste, producing 12% of all municipal solid waste while
17 accounting for 4% of the population; and

18 WHEREAS, Data from the Global Waste Index showed Colorado
19 averaged 1.046 kilograms of municipal solid waste generated per person,
20 the 30th-highest state ranking in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Colorado's rate of municipal waste diversion was
22 15.7% in 2024, the most recent year for which data is available from the
23 state, trailing far behind the adopted statewide goals of 35% by 2026 and
24 45% by 2036; and

25 WHEREAS, Recent research from Eco-Cycle found that
26 Colorado's rate of composting waste was less than half of the national
27 average of 32% and among the lowest-ranked states in the nation; and

28 WHEREAS, The Colorado department of public health and
29 environment reports that approximately 30% to 40% of all food produced
30 goes uneaten; and

31 WHEREAS, Producing food requires significant water, energy,
32 and land use, resources that are wasted when food is thrown away; and

33 WHEREAS, Approximately 60% of uneaten food is sent to
34 landfills, where it decomposes and produces methane; and

1 WHEREAS, The Colorado General Assembly has already signaled
2 its support for food-waste initiatives through the passage of House Bill
3 25-1166, which required the department of public health and environment
4 to provide annual training on food waste prevention and reduction
5 strategies and develop a food waste reduction guidance document; and

6 WHEREAS, We acknowledge that, to limit waste and protect
7 Colorado's natural resources and landscapes, our state, and our Earth, we,
8 as elected representatives of the state, must provide leadership, tap into
9 the expertise and talent of our community, and engage the hearts and
10 minds of all citizens; now, therefore,

11 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth*
12 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

13 That we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives,
14 reaffirm our commitment to the goals and principles of our
15 responsibilities as stewards of the Earth. In recognition of 2026 Earth Day
16 and International Day of Zero Waste, and in keeping with our moral
17 obligation to limit waste and protect and enhance the long-term health of
18 the state's natural environment, economy, and community, we support
19 Earth Day and International Day of Zero Waste by:

20 (1) Inviting and encouraging all citizens, businesses,
21 organizations, schools, clubs, congregations, neighborhoods, and families
22 to participate in community International Day of Zero Waste events on
23 March 30, 2026, and Earth Day activities on April 22, 2026, and to
24 engage in environmentally sound and waste-reducing practices in their
25 everyday lives;

26 (2) Using the observance of International Day of Zero Waste and
27 Earth Day as a springboard for exploring new avenues for sustainability
28 and waste reduction;

29 (3) Demonstrating leadership and continually evaluating state
30 operations, facilities, and services to ensure the highest standard of
31 efficiency, sustainability, waste reduction, and environmental protection;

32 (4) Forging partnerships with local organizations, environmental
33 professionals, businesses, and citizens to encourage the adoption of
34 statewide sustainability practices and the development of green
35 technologies, and become a model for the region and country; and

1 (5) Encouraging teachers and parents to emphasize environmental
2 awareness among young people so that they have the knowledge to make
3 sound choices in their daily lives to preserve and enhance our natural
4 environment and are able to join the workforce of our state with a strong
5 environmental ethic.

6 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be sent to
7 Colorado's Congressional Delegation, Governor Jared Polis, Lieutenant
8 Governor Dianne Primavera, the City of Boulder, the County of Boulder,
9 the University of Colorado Boulder, and Eco-Cycle.