

January 24, 2023

House Energy and Environment Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

## **Re: Support HB23-1005 New Energy Improvement Program Changes**

Chairwoman Kipp, Vice Chair Willford, and Members of the Committee:

Western Resource Advocates (WRA) works to protect the West's land, air, and water. For thirty years WRA has worked alongside non-profit allies, in partnership with Colorado state legislators, regulators, agencies, and the Governor's office to help craft smart solutions to address climate change. We advocate for policies that help to protect the health of our rivers, fish and wildlife, and that support Colorado communities, the climate and industries like agriculture, and the outdoor economy, which our state relies on. We are grateful to Representatives Willford, and Titone for sponsoring this bill to expand the C-PACE program to include additional water efficiency measures and to add climate resiliency elements.

WRA supports HB23-1005 because it will:

- Provide commercial, industrial, and multi-family building owners with access to low-cost financing for turf replacement and water wise landscaping projects that will result in reduced outdoor water demand, more drought-tolerant landscapes, and improved system-wide water supply resilience for utilities facing the impacts of climate change and prolonged drought. This was an important financing opportunity identified in WRA's Colorado Water Conservation Board funded project, "Enabling the Large-Scale Replacement of Non-Essential Turf in Colorado."
- Allow building owners the opportunity to invest in critical stormwater control measures such as bioswales, rain gardens, permeable pavement, green roofs, and more that can significantly reduce irrigation water demand of a site while reducing stormwater runoff and resulting water quality concerns.
- Result in reduced energy demand given the energy inherent in producing, transporting, and treating water.

This bill is an important next step in our state's efforts to address the causes of climate change and to continue our progress supporting businesses to incorporate water conservation and beneficial electrification into their practices.

We thank the members of the House Energy and Environment Committee for your consideration. We urge you to vote "yes" on HB23-1005.

Sincerely,

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Western Resource Advocates  
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Western Resource Advocates provides on the ground solutions to climate change. WRA works with policymakers and other advocates to advance clean energy; protect air, land, water, and wildlife; and sustain the lives and livelihoods of the West. For more information, visit [WesternResourceAdvocates.org](https://WesternResourceAdvocates.org) and follow us on Twitter [@wradv](https://twitter.com/wradv).