

House Finance

03/20/2023 01:30 PM

HB23-1240 Sales Use Tax Exemption Wildfire Disaster Constr

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Shelagh Turner</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Dear legislators,</p> <p>Please pass the Sales Use Tax Exemption for the fire victims. It's been so difficult trying to get enough money to rebuild. I'm a senior citizen on a fixed income. My rebuild budget seems to be a moving target when it comes to rebuilding my home. I'm just trying to rebuild what I had before the fire. I'm not to trying build a new fancier house. State Farm has been a small nightmare. I don't know how those people sleep at night. I've had to fight them every inch of the way just to get what I paid for in my policy. And of course, that's not even enough to rebuild. We all have to use our personal property money for rebuilding. And sadly, they'll be almost nothing left for landscaping and fencing.</p> <p>Every little bit of money we can get helps. I just want to be able to get back to my house so I can have a decent retirement life.</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p> <p>Sincerely, Shelagh Turner</p>
<p>Lisa Hughes</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Chair and members of the committee,</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to submit, written testimony, in support of HBA-231240.</p> <p>My name is Lisa Hughes and I lost my house in the Marshall fire in Louisville. Over the course of the last year I have discovered that I am under insured in terms of my rebuild based both on my insurance coverage, but also based on the amount, it costs to build in Boulder county currently. Providing this rebate for survivors of the Marshall fire would help me to greatly close the gap in my ability to pay for my house. I lived in Louisville for 20 years prior to the fire. I raised my children there and I love that community. And my neighbors. I am looking forward to being able to</p>

	<p>go back later this year and you passing this use tax rebate will help to make that possible.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Lisa Hughes</p>
<p>Christina Riseman</p> <p>For</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Finance committee, for the opportunity to testify in writing.</p> <p>My name is Christina Riseman, and my husband Seth and I lost our home and all of our possessions last year in the Marshall Fire in Louisville, CO. Our home was in the Enclave. I am writing to urge the committee to vote yes on House Bill 1240, which would provide a sales use tax exemption for Marshall Fire victims that rebuild their homes.</p> <p>We, like many others, are underinsured due to the insufficient rebuilding costs calculated by the insurance companies. The methods they use to calculate what it should cost to rebuild are archaic, non-transparent, and ultimately predatory. We grew up on the East Coast and have moved around quite a bit since we graduated college; we lived in Houston, Texas, and Mumbai, India prior to coming to Louisville Colorado. Once we moved to Louisville, we finally felt like we found our home. We have never experienced such a warm and welcoming community until we moved here. This sense of community was even more evident after the Marshall Fire - we knew we lived in such a wonderfully unique place prior to the fire, but afterward, all of the community support only served to reinforce how lucky we are to live here. We are determined to rebuild here as I said this is the one place we finally felt at "home," but the costs of rebuilding are going to be challenging and we will need to find many different financial resources in the form of loans, etc. in order to stay here due to the underinsurance issue. This ultimately will impact our retirement and potentially result in us needing to leave the community if we cannot afford to stay here long term due to the extra money we need to come up with in order to rebuild due to the underinsurance situation.</p> <p>By passing this bill, you will save us a significant amount of money on our rebuild that will not only help to ensure we can stay in this amazing community but also reduce the amount of loans we will need to take out to stay here.</p>

	<p>Please vote yes on HB1240.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Christina & Seth Riseman</p>
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Testimony to Support Bill SB143 Concerning administration of retail delivery fees

Good afternoon,

My name is Laura Williams and I am the local Sales & Use Tax Analyst for Martin Marietta in Colorado.

Martin Marietta is one of the largest building material suppliers in the country with over 500 locations in 27 states and 17 locations across Colorado. Looking at the whole of Martin Marietta's business, Colorado is a small fraction. That said, Colorado's complex taxing rules requires more staff than any other state where we do business.

In the case of the retail delivery fee, our programs are written to look at quantity of material sold by ticket (or truckload). Orders are placed by quantity of material per job, so one sale can lead to multiple deliveries by truck. Invoices are created daily based on the deliveries made that day. Our software has no structure to add a line item to one specific invoice per delivered job or to separately track this fee.

From our IT group, it would be very expensive to reprogram our systems to follow the current retail delivery fee requirements. We would invest more in system enhancements than we would likely remit to the State in tax over a 7 to 8 year period.

Since July 2022, we calculate the fee manually to remit monthly to the State because our software cannot invoice or tally the retail delivery fee as written in the original bill. We actually base our payment on each delivered invoice instead of by sale, so the State is receiving more payment than the original bill intended. We do this because it is easier to track and present during an audit.

Bill SB23-143 as introduced allows us to directly pay the retail delivery fee that would be invoiced to our customers instead of adding it to the first invoice on each delivered job. We support this bill and ask it move forward in its original form.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Laura Williams

Martin Marietta Materials

Member of the Coalition to Simplify Colorado Sales & Use Tax

March 20, 2023



Comment in favor of HB23-1240Charlotte Buck to Katie.Ruedebusch@state.co.us
03/17/2023 11:29 AM

To the Chair and other members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Charlotte Buck. I lost my home of 17 years in the Marshall Fire. I am one of many that finds themselves seriously underinsured and financially marginalized. I am urging you to please vote yes on House Bill 1240, which would provide a sales use tax exemption for Marshall Fire victims that rebuild their homes .

The last thing I wanted to do at age 75 was build a home, which I was proud to have paid off. It is going to be a real quest to rebuild with my financial picture. But the only way I could continue to live in Louisville in my subdivision where all of my beloved neighbors were rebuilding was to try to find a way. My neighbors are my people, and Louisville has been my home for 28 years. Moving to Erie is a non-starter.

In order to utilize and maximize the insurance I did have was to rebuild. I was shocked at what the rebuilding costs were in this zip code. Thankfully, there are a lot of resources that will help me, such as the sales tax rebate approved by the Louisville City Council. But there have also been setbacks that pretty much erase that assistance. The most recent one for me is being defrauded out of \$15,000 and 5 months of delay by someone who promised to design a cost efficient home, but didn't produce. I don't know if I have any legal recourse, but finding out would cost even more money and time. So I have started anew with an architect that my builder has vetted. If you have never done this before, it is easy to fall prey to someone who takes advantage of vulnerabilities. Also, the state of the economy and my retirement fund has taken a huge hit, and I'm bracing for the increase in insurance premiums and property taxes.

I am not alone in this struggle to find every possible dime to put towards my new home. It will mean reducing my nest egg that lost so much in the last year already. The DOLA financial assistance has so many caveats that I don't think I can qualify, even though I am almost at a poverty level of income. Going back to work is not feasible at my age.

Please help me with the cost of rebuilding by passing this sales use tax exemption. I'm speaking for all of us that are single, head of households who have taken this leap of faith to rebuild.

Thank you.

Charlotte Buck



HB23-1240 - Support FOR this Bill Christina Riseman to marc.snyder.house, junie.joseph.house, lindsey.daugherty.house, lisa.frizell.house, anthony.hartsook.house, cathy.kipp.house, william.lindstedt.house, bob.marshall.house, rick.taggart.house, ron.weinberg.house, chris.kennedy.house, katie.ruedebusch 03/19/2023 08:10 PM

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Finance committee, for the opportunity to testify in writing. We also submitted our testimony via the web form.

My name is Christina Riseman, and my husband Seth and I lost our home and all of our possessions last year in the Marshall Fire in Louisville, CO. Our home was in the Enclave. I am writing to urge the committee to vote yes on House Bill 1240, which would provide a sales use tax exemption for Marshall Fire victims that rebuild their homes.

We, like many others, are underinsured due to the insufficient rebuilding costs calculated by the insurance companies. The methods they use to calculate what it should cost to rebuild are archaic, non-transparent, and ultimately predatory. We grew up on the East Coast and have moved around quite a bit since we graduated college; we lived in Houston, Texas, and Mumbai, India prior to coming to Louisville Colorado. Once we moved to Louisville, we finally felt like we found our home. We have never experienced such a warm and welcoming community until we moved here. This sense of community was even more evident after the Marshall Fire - we knew we lived in such a wonderfully unique place prior to the fire, but afterward, all of the community support only served to reinforce how lucky we are to live here. We are determined to rebuild here as I said this is the one place we finally felt at "home," but the costs of rebuilding are going to be challenging and we will need to find many different financial resources in the form of loans, etc. in order to stay here due to the underinsurance issue. This ultimately will impact our retirement and potentially result in us needing to leave the community if we cannot afford to stay here long term due to the extra money we need to come up with in order to rebuild due to the underinsurance situation.

By passing this bill, you will save us a significant amount of money on our rebuild that will not only help to ensure we can stay in this amazing community but also reduce the amount of loans we will need to take out to stay here.

Please vote yes on HB1240.

Thank you for your time.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,
Christina & Seth Riseman



Support for HB23-1240 Sales Use Tax Exemption Wildfire Disaster Construction Marty Reibold to katie.ruedebusch 03/18/2023 03:31 PM

Cc kyle.brown.house, "Kathleen Jones", marc.snyder.house, junie.joseph.house, lindsey.daugherty.house, lisa.frizell.house, anthony.hartsook.house, cathy.kipp.house, william.lindstedt.house, bob.marshall.house, rick.taggart.house, ron.weinberg.house, chris.kennedy.house, judy.amabile.house, stephen.fenberg.senate, Governorpolis
Please respond to mjreibold

All

I want to voice our support for HB23-1240 Sales Use Tax Exemption Wildfire Disaster Construction. My wife, Kathleen Jones, and I are survivors of the Marshall Fire in Louisville and we are sending this email as an alternative to in-person testimony since we are presently living out of state until we can rebuild our home in Louisville.

We were within 6 months of retirement when the Marshall Fire destroyed our home of 30 years and as a result retirement is no longer an option for a few years until the rebuild is complete. We are probably fortunate to be able to continue working during the rebuild but it turns out that trying to secure construction financing after you stop working is extremely challenging.

After the disaster we diligently went about navigating the maze of obstacles ranging from under-insurance and the limited availability of architects, builders, subcontractors and supply chain issues. What we learned quickly is that every dollar matters. We continue searching each day for price certainty trying to take advantage of any rebates, pricing incentives and discounts that might allow us to eventually rejoin the friends, community and neighborhood we have called home for so many years. It has been a transformational and humbling change of mindset to go from charitable contributors ourselves to thankful recipients of kindness, empathy and donations.

We strongly urge the committee to vote yes on House Bill 1240, which would provide a sales use tax exemption for Marshall Fire survivors attempting to rebuild their homes. Every week we learn of more neighbors who cannot make the finances work and have no choice but to give up on the dream of returning and have to move on to a new life somewhere other than home. We hope to persevere and finish this nightmarish journey of recovery that we never asked for and never imagined. We've learned that the trauma doesn't just go away over time but eventually we hope to exhale because I don't think I've ever held my breath this long.

Please vote yes on HB1240. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this important bill and our personal thanks to Representatives Kyle Brown and Judy Amabile and Senator Stephen Fenberg for not only sponsoring this legislation but understanding that Every Dollar Matters.

Sincerely

Marty Reibold and Kathleen Jones
Formerly of 1206 West Pine Court
Louisville, CO 80027
mjreibold@earthlink.net



Support of Colorado House Bill 1240 To Refund State Use TaxJeff Wepman to
marc.snyder.house@coleg.gov, junie.joseph.house@coleg.gov,
lindsey.daugherty.house@coleg.gov, lisa.frizell.house@coleg.gov,
anthony.hartsook.house@coleg.gov, cathy.kipp.house@coleg.gov,
william.lindstedt.house@coleg.gov, bob.marshall.house@coleg.gov,
rick.taggart.house@coleg.gov, ron.weinberg.house@coleg.gov,
chris.kennedy.house@coleg.gov, katie.ruedebusch@state.co.us 03/17/2023 07:09 PM

Our names are Jeff and Carolyn Wepman. We lost our Louisville home of 22 years in the Marshall Fire. We urge you to vote Yes on House Bill 1240, which would provide a sales use tax exemption for Marshall Fire victims that rebuild their homes.

Like the majority of people who lost homes in the Marshall Fire, we found ourselves significantly underinsured. Louisville has been our home for 22 years and we absolutely want to return. We plan to rebuild but are concerned about costs. Between supply chain issues, costs of materials, and rising labor costs, we are struggling to determine a way forward.

A sales use tax exemption for Marshall Fire victims will greatly help us return to our community.

Please vote Yes on House Bill 1240.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeff and Carolyn Wepman
1157 W. Enclave Circle
Louisville, CO 80027



Support for State use tax relief, HB23-1240Jen Levinson to Katie.ruedebusch@state.co.us
03/17/2023 02:11 PM

As a Marshall Fire Survivor attempting to rebuild after a total loss, I'd like to express how difficult this process has been.

My name is Jennifer Levinson. I have lived at my home, 956 Eldorado Lane, for 19 years prior to the fire. I am slowly watching a multitude of lots go up for sale as long-time neighbors walk away from the rebuild nightmare. Prices for labor and materials have been climbing at breakneck speed, even prior to the fire. In addition, FEMA's clean-up efforts have exacerbated all manner of issues with lots in our neighborhood. Cornerstone (which is all I can speak to) neighbors are requiring excessive amounts of earthwork, caissons and structural flooring to meet codes. The Marshall Fire was an anomaly with excessive burn times. Our existing caissons are not structurally sound and cannot be reused. There is a cost to locate them, dig them up and remove them and replace them.

Right now, all costs seem to be a moving target. Even the few production builders are continuing to raise their original prices as time rolls on because of unforeseen issues with soils and necessary structural beef-ups.

Many of my long-time neighbors were grossly underinsured. After speaking with several dozen, I have been deemed the most underinsured of anyone I've spoken with.

My husband I love this community. We love our Cornerstone neighborhood and wish to return to it. We do not wish to take on additional debt to rebuild.

The increase in tax revenue due to the size and price of homes being rebuilt after the Marshall Fire will more than offset this initial tax relief. It is in the best interest of all parties for HB23-1 to pass so people can afford to rebuild. Thank you for considering this plea and the best interest of all parties involved.

Jennifer Levinson



Use Tax RefundJill Ruggles to katie.ruedebusch 03/17/2023 02:00 PM

To whom It May Concern,

Kyle Brown has introduced HB23-1240, "the bill creates a state sales and use tax exemption for construction and building materials purchased on or after January 1, 2020, but before July 1, 2025, to be used directly in rebuilding or repairing a residential structure damaged or destroyed by a declared wildfire disaster in calendar year 2020, 2021, or 2022 (wildfire rebuild exemption).

As a fire survivor this bill would provide much needed help to us in rebuilding our lives. This financial assistance would help in getting us back home. We appreciate the dedication in supporting Marshall Fire Survivors.

On December 29th we were typical Colorado residents secure in our financial future and enjoying being an integral part of our community. We owned our well loved home for over thirty years, and we truly loved our lives.

Our son came home from the hospital as a newborn to this house, attended neighborhood schools, and then concluded his education at CU Boulder. My husband had just retired, and I had plans of being able to retire as well with the plan of remaining debt free.

On December 30th we **LOST** whatever financial security we had known after losing our home to the Marshall Fire. We lost our way of life and were forced to relocate to another community. Our entire neighborhood of 75 homes were lost to the fire, and and we have faced numerous obstacles. Some of these obstacles have been too big to overcome for some of us and many of our neighbors will not be returning due to either trauma or finances.

Due to our problem of being severely underinsured though no fault of our own, we will be using every penny from our personal property insurance funds for the rebuild, and will be scratching for whatever additional funds we can find.

Five weeks ago, our rebuild stalled even further when they determined we had a problem with our soil. We were required to revise our structural plan and add the recommended caissons, engineering and redesign put the cost at over \$50,000.00.

Making an even bigger dent in our already strained budget. Unfortunately we had just finished the foundation excavation and had already signed the building contract, ...committing to a cost of what we thought we knew.

With the latest set of problems, we are experiencing further delays which will put the rebuild past the term of our ALE benefits from USAA. We remain unsure how we will cover any of the additional amounts that will be required. The problems keep multiplying and while most of Colorado has moved on...everyday we fire survivors remain reliving the trauma this fire has caused over and over.

Thanks,



Support for HB23-1240, to help Marshall Fire rebuildssteve sanders to katie.ruedebusch
03/17/2023 12:52 PM

Hello Katie,

I'm a Louisville resident, Marshall Fire survivor, and now home-rebuilder writing to express my support for HB23-1240, which would provide a use tax refund from the State. When testifying recently for another bill (HB23-1174) proposed by Representative Amabile, I learned that 92% of us who lost our houses are massively underinsured. The vast majority of us are committed to living in Louisville and Superior, want to rebuild our houses, ache to return to the wonderful sense of friendship and community we had with our terrific neighbors. I am certainly in that category. Yet the gross underinsurance problem we all face is a daunting obstacle. HB12-1240 would certainly help to reduce the magnitude of that obstacle; every bit helps.

By reducing our sales tax burden, this bill would *greatly* help all of us impacted by the Marshall Fire to rebuild our lives and our vital Colorado communities. Then we can return to giving and contributing *to* those communities.

Thank you very much for your support, and for communicating our strong advocacy to the entire state legislature.

--

Steve Sanders
480-410-7393
945 Larkspur LN, Louisville, 80027

State and RTD tax rebate for Marshall Fire families

Kim McKeen to katie.ruedebusch

03/17/2023 12:21 PM

Cc "Darren McKeen"

Finance Committee:

We lost our house and everything we owned in the Marshall fire on 12/30/2021. We are estimated to be \$250,000 under insured to rebuild the same sized house on our lot due to inflation, subcontractors fees greatly elevated etc. We are having to use all of our insurance money to replace our personal property to build our house and therefore not increase our mortgage total more than \$100,000 from what it was pre-fire. We are not replacing the items we lost and are living with things donated and will have to do so for years.

The one thing you can do to help our distressing financial predicament is to rebate the state and RTD tax we have to pay on our building supplies. That savings could help put a dent in the extra large mortgage we are ending up with in order to live as we were prior to the fire.

Thank you for considering this important issue on our behalf!

Sincerely,

Kim and Darren McKeen
911 Eldorado Lane
Louisville, CO 80027