



February 28, 2023

RE: HB23-1190 Affordable Housing Right of First Refusal - SUPPORT

Dear Members of the House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee:

My name is Kathy Smith, and I am a Volunteer Lobbyist with the League of Women Voters of Colorado's Legislative Action Committee. **I am writing in support of HB23-1190, on behalf of the League's Legislative Action Committee.**

The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) has been a nonpartisan organization for 103 years, encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 19 local leagues operating in several regions around the state.

The LWVCO supports policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every person. Colorado has a severe shortage of affordable rental homes, and preservation of existing affordable rental housing is essential to addressing our shortage. HB23-1190 allows local governments and housing authorities to be competitive with for-profit developers by giving them the opportunity to match the sale price and prevent affordable housing from being converted to market-rate housing. Colorado has about 160,000 low-income renter households but only has about 46,000 affordable homes available to rent. HB23-1190 provides an opportunity for local governments to include affordable housing within existing communities.

We urge the committee members to vote YES on HB23-1190. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Respectfully,
Kathy Smith, Volunteer Lobbyist
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