

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

02/12/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1044 Local Funding for Vulnerable Road User Protection

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Renee Larrarte For Conservation CO	<p>Testimony in Support of HB25-1044</p> <p>Tuesday, 2/12/25 1:30pm</p> <p>Senate Transportation Housing & Local Government Committee</p> <p>Good Afternoon, Thank you Chair and members of the Committee.</p> <p>My name is Renee Larrarte, Transportation Campaign Manager at Conservation Colorado, and I am testifying in support of HB-1044.</p> <p>As Colorado works to address the challenges of the climate crisis, we must work to lower emissions from the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado, the transportation sector. One key strategy is to encourage Coloradans to utilize sustainable transportation options. This will help us cut down on toxic vehicle emissions being released into the air contributing to climate change and help us meet our state’s climate goals. To do this we need to increase alternatives to driving to reduce vehicle miles traveled but this will not work if our streets are not safe.</p> <p>Further, there are ample climate, air quality, health, traffic, and other community-minded reasons to ensure all pedestrians and cyclists can get around safely and securely. However, our streets currently aren’t safe for all residents living in Colorado. A record number of people in the state are being injured and killed by drivers of cars as they walk and bike through their communities. According to data from CDOT, pedestrian deaths in Colorado have increased 77% since 2018. In 2023 alone, over 131 pedestrians were killed. In 2024 these numbers remained alarmingly high with 72 deaths in the first 9 months of last year. This is an ever-growing critical issue that deeply threatens the safety of Coloradans.</p> <p>This bill helps address this by allowing local governments access to dedicate new revenue for vulnerable road user protections, active transportation, local transit, and sustainable transportation investments. This would be voluntary and enable counties to assess a tiered registration fee on passenger cars and light trucks based on vehicle weight to help pay for local VRU protections.</p>

	<p>We need common sense solutions, like this, to fund local projects such as separated bike lanes, pedestrian refuge islands, and sidewalk and crossing improvements that are critically important for the safety of all road users in the state, especially those most vulnerable. This bill enables local governments to establish such programs but does not require them to do so. Furthermore, this vital legislation will also benefit our environment – contributing to both a safer and greener, more sustainable Colorado. For these reasons, I urge you to vote yes and support HB-1044.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time and your consideration</p>
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Hello Committee Chair and Committee Members

I don't want any further state control over local housing decisions.

Please don't allow HB25-1093 to advance out of committee.

I'm a Dem.

As a member of the middle class, I'm getting squeezed by the upheaval and chaos at the federal level and from extreme YIMBYism on the other side.

People like me don't have attorneys on retainer and unlimited funds like the government, private equity, hedge funds, and corporate housing do to push or defend their agenda. That's why this is happening - take advantage of the little person because it's easy. And it's been made purposefully easy. YIMBYs are more than happy to align with corporate housing.

Have you noticed that developers don't build affordable housing unless the government or some other entity subsidizes the effort? Have you noticed that local governments like where I live, don't require inclusionary housing in new developments? Where's the affordable housing along transit that is supposed to be built from the last legislative session? Do you want to see if that even works? My city is all on board with market rate housing much of it rentals. As far as I know there's no affordable housing along transit in the approval pipeline.

I and many others don't want more state control in what should be locally made decisions.

Payment in lieu for parks, trails and open space? Our parks, trails and open space use has increased exponentially and will increase more as more housing is built for new residents. Payment in lieu does not take this fact into account and discounts the love Coloradans have for their natural areas. We need more natural areas and to keep the natural areas we have. I see payment in lieu as freeing up funds for local governments to further take advantage of their residents.

Colorado Dems need to read the room.

I support my local Dem legislators, but I think more Dems need to acknowledge how corporate housing, the wealth gap and the general corporatization of our lives is ruining our lives.

The Colorado Senate Dems lost their supermajority in the last election and expected a supermajority in the House but that didn't materialize. You have to look no further than Trump winning the election to wonder how Americans will vote in upcoming elections. Reportedly, many who voted for Trump were middle class voters who felt left behind by Dems.

We have a Governor who promotes cutting taxes when you all must cut \$1 billion in funds from the state's budget. He reportedly micromanaged CPW in its effort to reintroduce wolves. The whole escapade has been detrimental to farmers, ranchers, the wolves and CPW employees. This just makes sure that very few or no Dems will ever be elected in rural Colorado.

This bill is just more torment for what we're going through with Trump's retribution tour.

Please enable the building of new developments that actually contain affordable housing - inclusionary housing - and stop torturing people like me with higher density who bought in a neighborhood of other single family homes after many struggles because that was my choice.

I support the expected bill regarding condominium construction. If the condo bill is successful, there will be an avenue to homeownership for many more Colorado residents.

Please don't let HB25-1093 advance out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Artell



February 11, 2025

RE: HB25-1093 Limitations on Local Anti-Growth Land Use Policies—SUPPORT

Dear Members of the 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 HB25-1093 on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Colorado.**

The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) has been a nonpartisan organization for 105 years, encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 18 local leagues operating in several regions around our state. The LWVCO supports policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for everyone and continued evaluation to provide a basis for revision and strengthening of all procedures so that equality of opportunity for access to housing can be accomplished.

Current law states that a governmental entity shall not enact or enforce an anti-growth law affecting property except for a temporary, nonrenewable anti-growth law following a disaster emergency in the jurisdiction. HB25-1093 clarifies that an anti-growth law includes restrictions or limitations on a particular housing type and clarifies when a local government must provide the option of paying a fee in lieu of land dedication. The lack of affordable housing in Colorado is directly attributable to the scarcity of housing units, and anti-growth laws enacted by local governments undermine the ability to construct additional housing units needed in our state.

We urge the committee members to vote YES on HB25-1093 to help address our state's housing shortage. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Respectfully,
Kathy Smith, Volunteer Lobbyist, Housing
League of Women Voters of Colorado
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