



May 2022

To: Senate Finance Committee

Re: Support for HB22-1328—Main Street Loan Program (CLIMBER)

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

The past two years have been extremely challenging for most small businesses in Colorado, but especially for woman, minority and Veteran-owned businesses. AAUW endorses the modifications to the Main Street CLIMBER Loan Program recommended in HB 1328, which will make funds available to more small business owners by reducing the minimum loan amount and increasing the payback time allowed. AAUW also supports the continued focus on woman-owned businesses.

We are pleased HB 1328 passed the House on a bi-partisan vote, and we hope you will give this bill an AYE vote in the Senate Finance Committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

**Su Ryden**

**AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director**

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*American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 non-partisan charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

Senate Finance  
 05/09/2022 Upon Adjournment  
 HB22-1328 Modify Main St Bus Recovery Loan Prog  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Gemma Lockhart            For            Self</p>	<p>WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF            GEMMA LOCKHART            CLIMBER NAVIGATOR            BEFORE THE            COLORADO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE            ON HB 1328            THE MAINSTREET CLIMBER LOAN PROGRAM</p> <p>Chairman Gonzales, Vice Chair Winter, Sen. Hisey, Sen. Lee and Sen. Priola,</p> <p>The CLIMBER Program gives a hope and promise from the Rocky Mountain State to her people who strive for success by operating small businesses here.</p> <p>I helped navigate CLIMBER in Fall of 2021 with a bipartisan outreach mainly to women-owned businesses on the Western Slope. They included childcare centers, community centers, and car washes, tire companies, environmental companies, solar companies, printing companies, wineries, hardware stores, media companies and more.</p> <p>One business included in my outreach was Blue Heron Yoga in Cedaredge, Colorado, located in Delta County below southern slopes of the Grand Mesa, the largest mesa in the world. Dea Jacobson owns the business. Her men’s yoga group reflects significant numbers that benefit from and engage group classes to maintain health in mountain living. Dea wrote:</p> <p>“Thanks but I am a sole proprietor and am interested in programs available to this category of businesses. I have been a woman owned business for 26 years. Thank you.” – Dea Jacobson</p> <p>Like Blue Heron Yoga, many women owned businesses on main streets in Colorado operate as sole proprietorships. Please continue support of the CLIMBER Loan Program and make changes proposed in HB 1328 so more women owned businesses can benefit!</p> <p>Respectfully,            Gemma Lockhart</p>