

## House Transportation & Local Government

### Testimony - HB21-1235 Regulation Of Fireworks

First Name	Last Name	Representing	Text of Testimony
Roland	Halpern	Animals	
Carmen	Olivarez	Self	
Ali	Brieske	Self	
AAeron	Calkins	Olde Glory Fireworks	
Heidi	Henkel	Self	
Gail	Lindley	Self	
Steve	O'Dorisio	Self	
Chris	Brunette	Fire Prevention and Control - Responsible	
Meghan	MacKillop	CML	
Kelly	Wiedemer	Self	<p>I support this bill 100%.                      Thank you, Shannon, for sponsoring it!!                      midnight. We could let people buy them in Colorado instead of Wyoming and use the tax dollars to replace aging roads and bridges. You get more bang for your buck. You are not going to stop free Americans from driving to Cheyenne. Might as well keep the revenue here in Colorado. Most of Wyoming firework customers are from Colorado.</p>
Bret	Koprowicz	Self	<p>any fireworks which leave the ground, yet airborne fireworks large and small are set off in the vicinity every year. Taking a walk in the evening on the 4th of July I've had to cross the street to avoid airborne fireworks being set off in neighbors' driveways.                      The large aerial displays vie for the size and magnificence of those seen simultaneously in the cities of Broomfield, Westminster and other surrounding cities.</p> <p>They are very loud and continue to be shot off past midnight. Those setting them off do not have the permission or perhaps even the training, to be doing so.                      (Fireworks are set off other times of year also, but not to the extent of July 4th).                      These fireworks above and beyond the ones allowed, are a disturbance of the peace and create fear. You hear them take off and wait for the bangs. Pets hide.</p>
Jill	Lewis	Self	<p>I support this bill to limit the availability of these fireworks.</p>

## Witness Signup List

I, along with my neighbors have been subjected to the excessive use of fireworks in my neighborhood since purchasing my home in Sherrelwood 7 years ago. This has resulted in many sleepless nights and forced me to resort to medicating my dogs. The use of fireworks is relentless during the summer. The mortars are unnerving. I am always afraid they will cause a fire on my property. Were they limited to holidays I would understand, however it sounds like will live in a war zone all summer. This has impacted my job , caused myself and my pets undue anxiety and I am left cleaning up the remnants in the street, sidewalks and my yard. I know my neighbors are angry and frustrated as well. I strongly support any efforts to curtail the sale and use of fireworks in residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Deborah      Whiteman      Self

Deborah Whiteman

I support this bill, and any bill that makes it more difficult for people to purchase commercial fire works. My neighborhood in southern Westminster and unincorporated Adams County seem to be ground zero for the shooting off of commercial fire work products. The timeframe of the explosion of fireworks in our neighborhood seems to start in early June and last until well after the 4th of July. The constant barrage of fireworks, well into the early morning hours day after day is a detriment to the mental health of people and animals.

Ken              Ciancio              Self

## Witness Signup List

Good afternoon,

As a retired law enforcement officer from Denver, who worked a safety car during the week before July 4th and again after the holiday ended, our call load was extremely high. Denver had up to 2-3 dedicated patrol cars per district ( Denver has 6 districts) and we were partnered with a firefighter. The hours worked were from approx 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. as a rule and depended on the call load.

One night in north Denver, a pop bottle rocket was shot off by a neighbor that entered an open window on the second floor on an old home that has just been remodeled. No one was home, and the house was a total loss. So a \$2.00 pop bottle rocket devastated a family residence to the tune of 100 of thousands of dollars.

The main response we received was after the offending party was contacted was " But I can buy them" Because DPD District 1 borders Adams County , that was true when purchasing in the fireworks on north Federal.

There are too many exceptions to the rules that city and counties make/enforce about the use of fireworks. We need a state mandate so there is not confusion on the part of our citizens.

Respectfully,

Gail

Lindley

Self

Gail Lindley

Dear House Representative,

I strongly support Representative Bird's bill to ban the sale of illegal fireworks to people with out-of-state licenses here in Colorado.

In my neighborhood we have loud, illegal fireworks going off all year. The noise is very distressing to our many combat veteran and pets. Some of my neighbors actually leave town to avoid 4th of July chaos. Those that can't, like us, hide out in the basement with music and movies to calm the dogs.

There were so many fireworks across the street from us last year, that through our cameras, it looked like a war zone. The fireworks are a nuisance at best and a fire hazard for sure. Last Fourth of July our neighbor's bushes caught on fire.

There was so much trash in the street that I went out to clean it up. Please see attached picture of what was just on our block.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and please pass it for the safety of all Coloradans.

Thank you, Robin Hannon 720-365-5898

Dear Chair Gray and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB21-1235. My name is Ali Brieske, a constituent of Representative Bird's residing in unincorporated Adams County. I support this bill because illegal, professional grade fireworks have gone unchecked in our area for far too long and are causing a drain on our quality of life.

Unfortunately, fireworks season isn't confined to July 4th, it starts when the weather gets warm and continues far past Independence Day. Imagine sitting in your home or in your backyard on a nice evening and it is disrupted by a sudden, massive explosion reaching over 160 decibels. For reference, the CDC lists fireworks in the pain and ear injury category as noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time may start to damage your hearing. Loud noise above 120 dB can cause immediate harm to your ears. This happens repeatedly at random intervals until the person finally gives up or uses up the supply. Meanwhile, to escape what feels like a siege we try going into the basement while our dog is shaking and panting. This is just one scenario. There are plenty of people who find it amusing to do the same thing at midnight or 2:00am when we should be allowed to sleep peacefully.

These are not sparklers or poppers, but illegal professional grade fireworks exploding directly over our homes. As we near the 4th of July, the frequency and force will increase. On the 4th, these massive fireworks start in the early afternoon and steadily increase until dusk. This is when people start using the choice fireworks constantly. We measured the frequency for an hour and one was being detonated every second. These continue all night long disrupting sleep, causing terrified pets, and people living with PTSD to relive trauma. Every year, there are multiple reports on NextDoor of fireworks on causing potential deadly injuries and fires on people's properties. Those participating in detonating fireworks often do not clean up the mess, leaving neighbors to do it for them or just leave massive amounts of trash in the streets and in our yards, which ultimately finds its way into our water systems or animals.

Unfortunately, there isn't much recourse for those who participate in this illegal behavior. Being in an unincorporated area, we rely solely on the Sheriff and deputies to patrol the area. These deputies are unable to get to every call and when they do, they often are not able to locate the source and in order to ticket anyone, they must see the person actually light the firework. Those who continue to bombard the neighborhoods with illegal fireworks know they will not be reprimanded. This system does not disincentivize the illegal activity and is unsustainable for our law enforcement officers. The Sheriff's office itself admitted that even with the best plan in place, they could not keep up with the volume of calls reporting illegal fireworks around the 4th of July. Last summer, a Sheriff deputy visited a neighbor three times and yet continued to light off huge fireworks nightly.

Additionally, I am not going to put myself in possible danger asking neighbors to stop, especially when the people in question do not seem to have any interest in how their neighbor's feel.

The current law allows illegal fireworks to be sold to people with an out of state license, and according to anecdotal evidence is not enforced consistently or strongly. Numerous people continue to move here and if they can use their old license even as a current resident of Colorado, they can use this loophole to access these illegal and dangerous fireworks.

At numerous town halls, I have asked the Sheriff what can be done to solve this problem. The reply was I need to change the state law, so here I am. I am not naive enough to think changing this aspect of the law will solve the issue entirely, but that is not the point. Bill HB21-1235 will cut off the illegal fireworks supply for some people which is a start to creating safer communities and happier neighbors.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ali Brieske