



Colorado General Assembly, Senate Transportation and Energy Committee

Chairwoman Faith Winter
Vice Chair Brittany Pettersen
Senator Don Coram
Senator Kerry Donovan
Senator Dennis Hisey
Senator Ray Scott
Senator Rachel Zenzinger

Re: Support of SB21-108 PUC Gas Safety Inspection Authority

April 6, 2021

Madame Chair Winter, Vice Chair Pettersen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gwen Farnsworth and I am a senior climate analyst with the Clean Energy Program at Western Resource Advocates (WRA), a regional conservation non-profit working to protect the West's land, air, and water for the last 30 years. On behalf of WRA, I am writing in support of SB21-108 – Public Utility Commission (PUC) Gas Safety Inspection Authority.

WRA supports SB21-108, as it will provide vital health, safety and environmental protections to Coloradans by strengthening Public Utilities Commission oversight of natural gas and liquid petroleum gas pipelines. Gas pipeline infrastructure is increasingly encroaching upon or overlapping with neighborhoods where Coloradans live, work, and play. Without properly defined and funded state regulatory oversight, Coloradans are at risk of dangerous leaks that can cause explosions and fires. Reduction of pipeline leaks reduce waste of a fuel resource and improved PUC oversight of gas pipeline integrity will help reduce emissions of methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

We thank Senator Tammy Story for working on this important issue. In particular, amendment (L.001), which adds “mapping of all pipelines,” is a critical step to improve the PUC's management and oversight of pipelines to protect the safety of Colorado residents, and to reduce methane leaks. We urge your “aye” vote on SB21-108.

Sincerely,

Gwen Farnsworth
Senior Policy Analyst Clean Energy Program
Western Resource Advocates

