

House Energy & Environment

03/20/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1268 Utility On-Bill Repayment Program Financing

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Melissa Katz For themselves	Dear Committee Members I am writing to you in support of HB 25-1268. I believe in clean air and water. I believe that to provide this to our community we need to move to more and more renewable energy sources. I am fortunate to be able to come from a lower middle class childhood to retire with the funds to add solar panels to my home and see my electric bills go to zero. However, i know that there are many in our community who do not have the cash flow to do this or the credit history to take out an affordable loan to do so. The people who can't afford this are even more likely to live in neighborhoods where they are directly impacted by the pollution from Oil and Gas production. This bill provides an opportunity for our neighbors to move in the direction of renewable energy in a cost effective way. The increase in payment for the panels will be offset by the energy savings people will see. This is truly a win win for our neighbors and our community. Please support this bill. thank you Melissa Katz Denver



TO: **House Bill Sponsors:** Junie Joseph, Meg Froelich
Senate Bill Sponsors: Kyle Mullica, Faith Winter
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:
Representative Alex Valdez (Chair), Representative Elizabeth Velasco (Vice Chair), Representative Carlos Barron, Representative Kyle Brown, Representative Sean Camacho, Representative Ken DeGraaf, Representative Ryan Gonzalez, Representative Junie Joseph, Representative Amy Paschal, Representative Manny Rutinel, Representative Jenny Willford, Representative Dan Woog

FROM: The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)

DATE: March 17, 2025

RE: **HB25-1268 - Utility On-Bill Repayment Program Financing**
Concerning the financing of a utility on-bill repayment program for certain energy-related improvements.

After reviewing the bill, CRES urges the Committee to vote YES on HB25-1268.

CRES is a strong advocate for energy efficiency and renewable energy. This program would be of great assistance to utility customers who want to do the right thing, but find that the financial barriers are too high to overcome. This bill directly addresses this problem. We are in strong support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Vincent P. Calvano
CRES Policy Committee
Colorado Renewable Energy Society

About CRES:

CRES is a Colorado nonprofit corporation established in 1996. CRES creates environmental, social, and economic benefits for Colorado by promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy of all types. CRES advocates for a carbon-neutral Colorado powered by 100% renewable energy, and is engaged in promoting energy efficiency, demand side management, beneficial electrification, and the full breadth of renewable energy development in Colorado's communities. CRES also advocates for ways to achieve Colorado's emissions reduction targets.

CRES educates and assists the state's consumers, businesses and communities to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency in a manner that supports the economy and the environment.

CRES membership includes approximately 350 individual and business members interested in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The organization reaches more than 6,000 email subscribers and sponsors educational programs attended by hundreds.

CRES works on behalf of consumers, small businesses, and communities throughout the state to promote the expeditious transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

STATE OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Dave Young
State Treasurer



Eric Rothaus
Deputy Treasurer

March 10, 2025

House Energy and Environment Committee
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

Dear House Energy and Environment Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to using the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund (UPTF) as a funding source for HB25-1268. While I wholeheartedly support efforts to advance energy efficiency initiatives, I cannot support borrowing from the UPTF to finance them.

HB25-1268 proposes borrowing \$150 million from the UPTF with no clear or enforceable plan for repayment. It's essential to remember that the UPTF is a trust that holds funds that rightfully belong to individuals, not the state. These are not state revenues; they are private funds that the state is legally and morally obligated to protect and return to their rightful owners.

Borrowing from the UPTF for non-trust purposes would violate the principles that govern these funds. This action may also constitute an unconstitutional "taking" under the Fifth Amendment, which prohibits the government from seizing private property without just compensation. This could open the door to costly legal challenges and undermine public trust in how we handle unclaimed property.

The state's responsibility is to ensure that unclaimed property is returned to its rightful owners. Using these funds for unrelated purposes puts that responsibility at risk and reduces compliance from businesses that hold unclaimed property, which complicates future efforts to return these funds to their owners.

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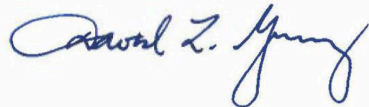
As State Treasurer, I take my duty to protect the UPTF very seriously. The people of Colorado have entrusted us with these funds, and we must act in their best interest. While I understand the importance of funding energy efficiency programs, I believe there are more appropriate and sustainable ways to do so—without undermining the integrity of the UPTF.

In Colorado, the Unclaimed Property Division has worked hard to return millions of dollars to rightful owners. Just last year alone, we returned over \$70 million. However, the liabilities of the fund still far exceed its balance, due to the \$820 million already pulled from the fund through previous legislative action. Any further diversion of these funds could jeopardize our ability to meet this critical obligation.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed funding mechanism and explore alternative sources that do not place the UPTF at risk. This is about doing what is right for the people of Colorado and ensuring we continue to honor our obligations.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you all to find a path forward that serves the best interests of Colorado's citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David L. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Young" clearly legible.

Dave Young
Colorado State Treasurer

Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, Suite 140
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Dear Chair Valdez and Members of the Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Sara Kuntzler and I am the Colorado State Director for [Mountain Mamas](#), a nonprofit dedicated to protecting our air, water, climate and public lands for future generations. I am submitting written testimony today to support HB25-1268, the On-Bill Repayment Program.

As a mother, there is nothing more important than protecting my children. That includes ensuring a safe, healthy, and sustainable future for them. That feels less and less possible, particularly in the face of federal environmental protection rollbacks. That's why it's more critical than ever that we take action at the state level to make up for our federal government's failings.

I know you agree that climate change is the greatest challenge facing the next generation, and in Colorado, air pollution is a critical threat to their health and well-being. The simple truth is that despite our best intentions, many of us, especially low-to-moderate income families, face significant barriers when it comes to making the energy-efficient upgrades that could protect both our health and the environment. Programs like the On-Bill Repayment Program provide a direct solution to that problem.

By removing the upfront cost barrier, the On-Bill Repayment Program allows families to finance essential energy efficiency upgrades, like heat pumps, insulation, and electrification measures, through their utility bill. For households that struggle to afford the high initial costs of such upgrades, this is a game-changer. It opens the door to energy savings that not only help families reduce their utility bills but also reduce harmful emissions that contribute to climate change and poor air quality.

Mountain Mamas is particularly excited about the potential for this bill to make our homes healthier. Many families are living in homes with poor air quality, which can lead to respiratory issues, especially for children. Heat pumps and better insulation can reduce the need for fossil-fuel-based heating and cooling, cutting down on both indoor and outdoor air pollution. These upgrades don't just lower bills—they directly improve the health and safety of our children.

This bill is also essential for making sure that underserved communities, who are often the most impacted by environmental hazards, can access these benefits. With this program, we can ensure that no one is left behind in our pursuit of a healthier, more sustainable future.

In closing, I urge you to support HB25-1268. It is an investment in both the immediate well-being of Colorado families and the long-term health of our planet. By making energy efficiency upgrades accessible and affordable, we are giving our children a cleaner, healthier future. Thank you for your time and your commitment to a brighter tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Sara Kuntzler
Colorado State Director
Mountain Mamas