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LEAGUE

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Mr. Chair and members of the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee,

The Colorado Municipal League is submitting this written testimony in support of House Bill 21-1263. We want to thank Senators Rodriguez and Hisey, as well as Representatives Roberts and Soper for bringing the bill forward.

The COVID-19 pandemic through our entire world into unknown territory. Rather than spending our summers in Telluride at the Blue Grass Festival, or Pueblo at the State Fair, or right here in Denver at the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, we were bound to our homes, left to imagine the summer that could have been.

It is imperative that we do everything we can to help our cities and towns bring these cornerstone events back to life. CML believes that providing rebates and incentives to our cities and towns would make it easier for event organizers to put on these types of events during a time when so many of these organizers are also struggling financially. Municipalities have also been forced to cut budgets as a result of the pandemic, and may not be able to afford to take on the cost of these events otherwise.

House Bill 21-1263 would encourage cities and towns to resume these important community events, providing economic benefits that would have impact at every level. These events get people to travel to our municipalities and spend money at local restaurants, businesses, hotels, and throughout the community, an essential step in recovering from the economic downturn of 2020.

CML respectfully requests your “AYE” vote on House Bill 21-1263.

