TO: **Senate Bill Sponsors**: Cleave Simpson, Dylan Roberts
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
Members of the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee:
Senator Faith Winter (Chair), Senator Lisa Cutter (Vice Chair), Senator Marc Catlin, Senator Tony Exum, Senator Nick Hinrichsen, Senator Kyle Mullica, Senator Byron Pelton, Senator Cleave Simpson, Senator Tom Sullivan

FROM: The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)

DATE: March 21, 2025

RE: **SB25-127 - Optimizing Colorado Electric Transmission System**
Concerning measures to optimize Colorado's electric transmission system.

CRES would like to thank the sponsors of SB25-127 for the hard work that has gone into advancing this bill related to optimizing electric transmission facilities in Colorado. Ensuring the availability of robustly optimized transmission infrastructure, including advanced transmission technologies as defined in Section 2, for renewable clean energy is critical for Colorado to meet its clean energy goals in both an affordable and sustainably resilient manner. CRES also continues its support[1] of the vision for the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority set forth in Sections 3-6 as the state's coordinating planner, procurer, and developer of transmission for the purpose of increasing grid reliability, helping Colorado meet its clean energy goals, and aiding in economic and community development.

After reviewing the bill, CRES **strongly supports HB25-127** with changes to Section 2 (1.3) and (1.5), as well as Section 3 (1.5)(b) highlighted below.

CRES would like to first point out that the definition of "advanced conductor" is taken from Montana (MT HB 729)[2] and not, for example, Virginia (VA HB 862)[3] or the Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Liftoff [4] definitions. The latter examples more clearly remove traditional steel conductors developed in the 1970's from consideration as an "advanced conductor" option for the 21st century. CRES, therefore, offers the following wording borrowed from the Department of Energy Grid Deployment report for Section 2 (1.3):

"(1.3) "Advanced Conductors" means conductors that increase line capacity by >1.5x, at a similar weight per foot; advanced conductors may use composite core instead of traditional steel cores to improve efficiency and increase capacity with limited sag."

CRES would recommend next that Section 2 (1.5) add the following as well-known advanced grid solutions, per the Department of Energy Grid Deployment, Table 1:

[1] See CRES Letters of Support to the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee regarding SB21-072 on March 11, 2021 and the Senate Finance Committee regarding SB23-016 on February 21, 2023.
[2] https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2023/HB0799/HB0729_2.pdf.
[3] https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+HB862H1.
[4] https://liftoff.energy.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Liftoff_Innovative-Grid-Deployment_Final_4.15.pdf. See also this webinar on advanced grid solutions https://globalpst.org/advanced-grid-solutions-webinar/.

(1.5) (d) energy storage, (e) virtual power plants, and (f) advanced flexible transformers.

Finally, consistent with the aforementioned additions to advanced grid solutions, CRES recommends the following additions to the list of goals enumerated in Section 3 (1.5)(b):

(VI) cost savings or other benefits of eliminating or downsizing projects that would otherwise use traditional technologies;
(VII) accelerating the interconnection of renewable resources in the queue.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Vincent P. Calvano
CRES Policy Committee
Colorado Renewable Energy Society

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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.

LineVision Inc.
529 Main Street, Suite 307
Boston, MA 02129 USA

Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

March 25, 2025

Re: Support for SB25-127 – Colorado Grid Optimization Act

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of LineVision in support of SB25-127. This legislation will enable Colorado to optimize use of the electric grid, while containing ever-growing transmission system costs.

LineVision is an American Grid Enhancing Technology (GETs) company with a local office in Boulder, CO. We provide electric utilities with monitoring solutions for high-voltage transmission lines that can unlock as much as 40% additional capacity on existing lines through Dynamic Line Ratings (DLR). LineVision's non-contact sensors and sophisticated analytics also provide actionable insights into the real-time status and long-term health of transmission lines while improving situational awareness, helping to ensure optimal, safe, and reliable operation.

GETs like DLR are critical tools that help to optimize existing infrastructure, reduce congestion, and save money for customers, while ensuring that the grid is prepared to serve the major growth in demand Colorado is seeing in the form of data centers, manufacturing, electrification, and more. As demand for electricity increases in Colorado, tools that can quickly and cost-effectively increase the capacity and resilience of the transmission system are needed. GETs are well suited to do that, while also keeping costs low for customers.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Hilary Pearson, VP of Policy & External Affairs

Senate Transportation & Energy

03/26/2025 01:30 PM

SB25-127 Optimizing CO Electric Transmission System

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Samuel Sprotte For themself	I am writing to encourage the committee to pass SB25-127. The bill is a common sense step towards securing Colorado's energy future and capitalizing on existing investments the state has made into CETA. In particular I encourage the committee to preserve the language in the bill that requires electric utilities to identify transmission projects, incorporate an evaluation of advanced transmission technologies into their resource plans, and provide inputs to CETA to support it as the statewide transmission coordinator. These provisions are essential to protect the public from the tendency of monopoly utilities to protect their own interests over the interests of the public. I also encourage the committee to strengthen the requirement to share data with CETA to explicitly include certain data that may be considered proprietary but is critically important to CETA's mission, namely the extent to which the utilities already employ advanced conductors. If the utilities are allowed to conceal pertinent data about their networks, then CETA's work will be significantly harder and the public will receive fewer cost and reliability benefits than we would if the utilities are compelled to act in the public interest. Thank you for your time. Samuel Sprotte