

Testimony -- House Energy & Environment Committee -- Jan. 23, 2020

Madame Chair and Committee members, my name is Larry Miloshevich and I'm an atmospheric scientist from Lafayette. I wrote a white paper about six ways to address community energy goals, one of which is the wholesale model of Community Choice Energy.

Allowing communities the option to choose their wholesale electricity suppliers would inject some competition into the wholesale electricity sector in Colorado, which would likely drive innovation, and lower costs for all communities.

That said, it is essential to be clear that this bill, and your vote today, is NOT about enabling CCE in Colorado. It is about studying how CCE would work best in Colorado based on lessons learned from other states, expert testimony, and input from all interested stakeholders.

This bill explores a promising approach for giving communities more choice and control over their energy sources, energy costs, energy programs and economic development, and it does not conflict with other possible approaches.

Please do not allow this bill to be burdened by shoehorning in other approaches. CCE is complicated and deserves to be considered in a focused way by these studies that are specific to CCE. Studying or even enabling CCE would not preclude other energy legislation from advancing in parallel.

A few things about CCE are clear and worth mentioning. CCE would not shift costs onto IOU customers, as it is cost-neutral for them by design. And second, it would surely be written into any enabling legislation that CCEs must meet or exceed any state renewable energy requirements that IOUs are required to meet.

For every argument you hear today that CCE would cost too much, or would slow down progress on clean energy, I can make another that it would save ratepayers money, and would speed up progress on clean energy. But such assertions, either way, are mere speculation, as no one knows how CCE would work in Colorado.

You may also hear that CCE in California has experienced growing pains. We in Colorado are fortunate to have this early adopter's experience to learn from, and furthermore, Colorado is not California.

The purpose of this bill is to get thoughtful input from many perspectives, backed by mountains of evidence, data, and analysis. This bill is about understanding CCE's financial and technical viability and its regulatory implications, to determine if CCE would bring net benefits to Colorado.

In conclusion, this bill would investigate an energy policy that's worth investigating. The PUC process is ideally suited because it is transparent and all parties can participate, especially vested interests. This bill does not change the status quo. It has little downside, much potential upside, and very little risk.

Committee members, this bill has broad appeal and deserves your 'yes' vote, and even your cosponsorship. I welcome any questions. Thank you.