



COLORADO WATER WELL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

02/04/2025

On behalf of the Colorado Water Well Contractors Association (CWWCA), I am pleased to express our strong support for the Colorado FORGE team and its initiative to accelerate workforce development, technical innovation, and community engagement in the geothermal heat pump (GHP) industry through the GHP-PATHS Prize competition.

CWWCA represents a broad coalition of well contractors, drillers, and water resource professionals dedicated to sustainable water management and geothermal infrastructure. As an organization committed to responsible groundwater resource development and drilling expertise, we recognize the vital role that GHP systems play in advancing Colorado's clean energy future.

CWWCA's participation in the Colorado FORGE team will bring significant benefits to the GHP-PATHS initiative, including:

1. Expanding the Skilled Workforce – By leveraging our network of licensed water well contractors and drilling professionals, CWWCA will help recruit, train, and certify workers for GHP system installation, addressing the severe shortage of qualified drillers in Colorado.
2. Enhancing Drilling Capacity – The Colorado GHEX drilling backlog has been a major obstacle to widespread GHP adoption. CWWCA's collaboration with Colorado FORGE will support efforts to increase drilling capacity by providing guidance on best practices, regulatory compliance, and new training pathways for professionals entering the field.
3. Promoting Industry Collaboration – Our association's longstanding relationships with well drilling companies, groundwater engineers, and hydrologists will enhance knowledge-sharing and foster collaboration between geothermal professionals, HVAC contractors, and policymakers. By working alongside Colorado FORGE partners, we will help integrate water well drilling expertise into the broader GHP workforce strategy.

We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to this transformative initiative and are committed to leveraging our expertise to support the success of the Colorado FORGE team. Please feel free to contact me to discuss how CWWCA achieves the GHP-PATHS objectives.

Sincerely,

Josh Weaver
President
Colorado Water Well Contractors Association



Direct Air Capture
Coalition

March 27, 2025

Christopher Neidl

Board Secretary

[The Direct Air Capture Coalition](#)

1402 Larkwood Drive

Austin, Texas 78723

Senate Transportation and Energy Committee

Colorado General Assembly

State Capitol Building

200 E. Colfax Avenue

Denver, CO 80203

Re: SUPPORT - HB25-1165 Geologic Storage Enterprise & Geothermal Resources

Chair Winter and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today, and to express, on behalf of the Direct Air Capture Coalition, my strong support for HB25-1165. I serve as a founding board member of [the Direct Air Capture Coalition](#). We are a nonpartisan, non-profit organization working to advance the deployment of Direct Air Capture - or DAC - technology, worldwide. We represent [80 member organizations](#), 52 of which are DAC companies.

We believe that HB25-1165 represents a vital step forward in enabling responsible carbon sequestration in Colorado, and, indeed, should serve as a model policy for other states.

DAC is a diverse technology class that removes CO₂ directly from the air, which can be stored geologically or in durable materials. The U.N. IPCC, the National Academies of Sciences, and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have all concluded that DAC will be an important tool for meeting net-zero targets.

Over the next 25 years DAC will be most critically needed to balance emissions from those industrial sectors that are most difficult or impossible to fully decarbonize. [According to a 2023 McKinsey & Company report](#), Colorado's hard-to-abate emissions are three times higher than the national average as a share of its total emissions. This inevitably elevates the importance of DAC within the state's carbon management strategy, and therefore, overall net zero strategy.

And fortunately Colorado has everything it needs to support DAC at scale: abundant clean energy potential, strong policy commitments, and a thriving climate-tech ecosystem.

But Colorado's other massive advantage is its vast geologic sequestration potential, estimated at over 650 billion tons by the Colorado Geological Survey.



Direct Air Capture
Coalition

Geologic sequestration is not new. And based on empirical data synthesized in a [2023 DOE funded study, co-authored by Colorado State University](#), properly sited and regulated sequestration is one of the safest and most effective tools we have to meet our climate goals. Additionally, Colorado's unique geography co-locates hard-to-abate industrial emissions facilities with high-quality carbon storage sites, anchored in the Front Range and Eastern Plains. This can limit the need for long-distance pipelines, addressing public concerns and lowering costs.

These very same regions are also home to industrial operations that have supported Colorado's economy and sustained thousands of jobs for decades. Under robust state oversight, existing infrastructure and expertise concentrated there provides an optimal platform for efficient, cost-competitive, and safe sequestration.

The greatest advantage of carbon sequestration is that it is functionally permanent. Unfortunately, however, the geological timescale does not align with the much shorter cycles of commerce and legal contracts. And this creates a challenge in structuring long-term liability for carbon storage projects.

HB25-1165 directly addresses this key gap by transferring CO₂ site responsibility from private operators to the state; but only after stringent closure requirements are met, and provided the operators have remained compliant and have contributed necessary funds. This structure provides financial predictability for operators while guaranteeing public safety, environmental integrity, and alignment with the state's climate goals.

To conclude, Colorado has the geology, industrial expertise, net zero rationale and private sector investment necessary to do carbon storage at scale. But government leadership and oversight are what will ensure that it's done right and in the public interest. And I believe strongly that this legislation is central to that end.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage the committee to support it.

Christopher Neidl
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**Gradient
Geothermal**

Written testimony in Support of Colorado HB25-1165

Provided by Johanna Ostrum, Gradient Geothermal

Chair and members of the Colorado Senate Transportation and Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity provide written testimony today. My name is Johanna Ostrum, and I am the Chief Operating Officer of Gradient Geothermal, a company dedicated to advancing geothermal energy development, particularly through the co-production of geothermal heat from existing oil and gas wells. We are headquartered in Denver, CO and we provide turnkey geothermal solutions designed to work seamlessly with existing infrastructure.

I'm here today in strong support of HB25-1165, which provides much-needed regulatory clarity for underground energy resources. This bill removes uncertainty in the permitting and oversight of geothermal co-production from existing infrastructure, making it easier for companies like Gradient Geothermal to develop projects efficiently and cost-effectively. By establishing clear jurisdiction under the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC), HB25-1165 streamlines the regulatory process, reduces delays, and encourages further investment in geothermal energy across Colorado.

At Gradient Geothermal, we are working on a state-funded project in Pierce, Colorado, to demonstrate the potential of geothermal co-production from existing oil and gas wells. This project not only supports Colorado's clean energy goals but also provides a practical pathway for repurposing existing infrastructure to generate emissions-free heat and electricity. However, regulatory uncertainty has been a barrier to scaling up these efforts. By passing this bill, the state will create a more predictable and efficient regulatory framework that allows companies like ours to move forward with confidence.

This legislation increases opportunities for geothermal development, making it easier to deploy projects that create jobs, reduce emissions, and support Colorado's transition to a diversified energy economy. HB25-1165 is a win for regulatory efficiency, a win for economic development, and a win for clean energy innovation. I urge the committee to support this bill and help Colorado lead the way in geothermal co-production.



Gradient
Geothermal

Thank you for your time.

Johanna Ostrum

Senate Transportation & Energy

03/31/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1165 Geologic Storage Enterprise & Geothermal Resources

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Brien Webster For Conservation Colorado	<p>Testimony in Support of HB1165: Geologic Storage Enterprise & Geothermal Resources</p> <p>Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB1165. My name is Brien Webster and I am the Public Lands Campaign Manager for Conservation Colorado. Conservation Colorado supports HB1165 as amended. We appreciate the collaborative efforts and the responsiveness of the bill sponsors in addressing concerns raised during previous hearings. The accepted amendments have significantly improved the bill.</p> <p>One crucial improvement addresses the long-term financial responsibility associated with carbon storage. The bill now includes mechanisms to ensure that adequate resources will be available to manage potential long-term liabilities, including the responsible plugging, abandoning, reclaiming, and remediating of storage facilities, even in scenarios where initial financial assurances prove insufficient. This proactive approach is good for Colorado because it mitigates future financial risks for the state, preventing taxpayers from bearing unforeseen costs associated with these projects. By establishing a framework to address these potential long-term needs, the bill incentivizes responsible operation and planning from the outset.</p> <p>We appreciate the efforts of the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in thoughtfully addressing the crucial civil liability issue in the bill. Specifically, we commend the shift from waiving all liability for operators entering the stewardship program to waiving only regulatory liability, a change supported by stakeholders that strikes a more appropriate balance. This revised approach ensures that while operators within the stewardship program benefit from a clear regulatory framework, they also remain accountable for their actions, a positive development that fosters responsible operation and provides a greater degree of assurance for Colorado communities and the environment.</p> <p>These advancements in the legislation demonstrate a commitment to not only facilitating carbon sequestration but also to doing so in a way that is financially sound, environmentally responsible, and holds operators accountable. By proactively addressing potential long-term financial obligations and carefully considering liability, HB1165 provides a more robust and responsible framework for carbon storage in Colorado. We are hopeful that this legislation, with these improvements, will be a valuable tool in protecting Colorado's communities, climate, and wildlife.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Brien Webster</p>