



February 4, 2019

Representative Dominique Jackson, Chair
Energy and Environment Committee
200 Colfax, RM 307
Denver Co 80203

Representative Jackson and Committee Members,

Moffat County Colorado writes to strongly oppose HB 19-1037, the Colorado Energy Impact Assistance Act. We understand the intent of the bill's sponsor was to help coal communities, however, coal communities would be better served if power plants remained open and operating, rather than incentivizing their closures.

Moffat County has a strong socio-economic dependence on coal production and coal based electricity generation, which HB 19-1037 will negatively affect. Moffat County's top 10 Taxpayers make up 61% of Moffat County's assessed value. Six of the top 10 Taxpayers are directly tied to coal production and electricity generation from coal.

Moffat County understands the political forces at work to transition from coal based energy to other sources. We believe decommissioning power plants should occur through existing business plans from the utilities themselves rather than HB19-1037 incentivizing their closures. If HB 19-1037 passes, we believe both investor-owned utilities and cooperative utilities are unlikely to utilize PUC bonds since companies already have the best credit ratings available and borrow money at the lowest rates on the markets. In the meantime, HB 19-1037 accelerates power plant shutdowns. As power plants decommission, local communities lose their largest property tax payers, lose the largest Business Personal Property tax dollars, lose the largest workforces, and lose associated downtown businesses that depend on power plants and their hundreds of employees in Moffat County.

To add to the economic and social devastation, HB 19-1037 addresses funding for retraining workers, but the practicality of retraining has proven ineffective in other coal affected communities in Colorado. The simple reality is skilled labor leaves a community to go to other communities where their labor is needed, rather than switching to what is often a lower paid career, if new jobs are even available in a coal affected community.

We are also concerned HB 19-1037 creates a perception of a competitive advantage for investor-owned utilities.

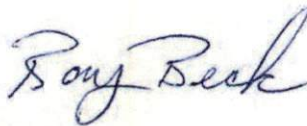
If the intent of HB 19-1037 is to assist coal affected communities, rather than encouraging decommissioning, it may consider requiring utilities which decommission coal fired power plants to financially offset communities lost revenue for at least a 10 year period. Financial offsets to Business Personal Property Tax, Property Taxes, employee and social contributions to a community should be considered.

If you have further questions about Moffat County's opposition to HB 19-1037 please contact one of the commissioners listed below.

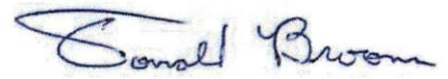
Sincerely,



Don Cook, Chairman



Ray Beck



Donald Broom