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| <p>Greg Poschman<br/>For<br/>Pitkin County, Roaring Fork<br/>Transportation Authority</p> | <p>Support SB25-272 to clarify workforce housing for Regional Transportation Authorities</p> <p>Dear Senators on the Transportation and Energy Committee:</p> <p>I know you are all very busy! Here's the gist:</p> <p>We request your support for SB25-272 which clarifies that housing for RTA employees is part of an RTA's enumerated governmental powers to meet regional transportation needs. Specifically, RFTA is seeking to offset the increasing costs of acquiring, building and maintaining our critical workforce housing.</p> <p>The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) and the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA), are working with Senators Faith Winter and Marc Catlin of the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on SB25-272 to clarify that housing for RTA employees is included in an RTA's enumerated governmental powers. We believe that this is essential to the provision of safe and effective public transportation for RFTA and for other Regional Transportation Authorities throughout the state. SB25-272 was introduced on April 1st and is scheduled to be presented on April 14th to the Transportation and Energy Committee.</p> <p>Last year, the Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) denied RFTA's sales tax exempt status for costs incurred in the renovation of a hotel in Glenwood Springs that has been converted to housing for RFTA's essential employees. CDOR contended that employee housing is not within RFTA's governmental function, but is proprietary. However, RFTA cannot operate its regional transportation system without providing affordable housing opportunities for its employees. RFTA is seeking to clarify that employee housing is part of a Regional Transportation Authority's governmental powers.</p> <p>RFTA is the largest rural transportation system in the United States, providing regional commuter transit services over a 70-mile corridor from Rifle to Glenwood Springs on Interstate 70, and from Glenwood Springs to Aspen on State Highway 82, with over 120 buses and up to 380 employees in peak seasons. RFTA served over 5 million rides in 2024 and plays a critical role in the regional economy, connecting the workforce to jobs.</p> <p>RFTA currently offers a limited supply of below-market rate employee housing for its essential workers. In 2024, RFTA hired nearly 90 CDL bus operators, mostly from out</p> |

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|  | <p>of the region and state and who needed housing. Over 70% of the new hires are currently living in RFTA's employee housing. Without providing employee housing, RFTA would not have been able to fill these critical positions and avoid service disruptions.</p> <p>Once again, PLEASE support SB25-272 which clarifies that housing for RTA employees is part of an RTA's enumerated governmental powers to meet regional transportation needs.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Greg Poschman, Board Chair<br/>Roaring Fork Transportation Authority ( RFTA)<br/>Pitkin County Commissioner<br/>970-309-7997</p> |
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