



City of
Golden

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03/06/2024

Don Cameron
Lisa Vitry
Legislative Subcommittee
City of Golden

RE: HB25-1096– Automated Permits for Clean Energy Technology

Dear Committee Members,

The Golden Legislative Subcommittee is writing to request an amendment from the City Council of Golden to HB25-1096, Automated Permits for Clean Energy Technology. Golden is proud to have established meaningful sustainability goals to protect local resources to assure a high quality of life for current and future generations, supporting the integration of renewable energy sources such as solar. While we are supportive of advancing access to solar permitting systems across the state of Colorado, we are concerned about the implications a sweeping requirement to implement one specific system may have on communities who are already far along in their sustainability work with well-established permitting systems.

Currently, the City of Golden already has a 3–5 day turnaround for review and issuance of solar permits and in some cases, even sooner. It is common in Golden for existing structures to require an on-site analysis for the proper installation of PV systems and modifications to framing. Unfortunately, the proposed software in this bill, SolarAPP, doesn't yet have the ability to do this, resulting in longer wait times for permits in our community. Additionally, the City of Golden has worked hard build flexibilities into our codes that would make it challenging to adopt a new process. Namely, since the 2021 I-codes require prescriptive requirements for rooftop emergency access pathways and fire setbacks, our sustainability, public works, and fire department have collaborated with local solar installers to offer an alternative compliance process that ensures fire department access while allowing significantly more rooftop space available for solar. Switching to new software would require going back to the drawing board on some of these advancements in our code.

The City of Golden began its sustainability work 19 years ago with a vision of a community and state less reliant on the non-renewable resources. The City Council of Golden supports state leaders in their work to advance solar access but believes the City of Golden currently offers a streamlined and efficient process to solar applicants; adopting a new process has the potential to hinder the work we have already done. To this end, we do not support a mandate which sweepingly requires all municipalities to adopt the same permitting software and would ask the committee to consider an exemption for communities who are already meeting this bill's solar goals.

Please feel free to share this letter with the various committees or house members who are advancing this bill to indicate our opposition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don B. Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Don Cameron
Ward 3 Councilor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Vitry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L".

Lisa Vitry
District 1 Councilor



Dear Chair Lindstedt and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Sara Kuntzler and I am the Colorado State Director for [Mountain Mamas](#), a nonprofit that helps protect our air, water, climate and public lands for future generations. I am writing to urge your support of HB25-1096, a bill that will make a significant difference for families across Colorado, especially those who are working hard to make their homes more energy-efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

As a mother, I know how important it is to ensure that our homes are safe, affordable, and resilient. Installing solar panels not only helps families save on energy costs, it also contributes to a cleaner, healthier environment for our children. Unfortunately, the process to get solar panels installed in Colorado is far too complicated and costly for many families. Current permitting delays add unnecessary costs—over \$3,200 per installation on average—and create frustrating roadblocks that can cause delays or cancellations of solar projects altogether. In fact, studies have shown that reducing permitting burdens disproportionately benefits lower and middle-income families, the same families who stand to benefit the most from clean energy.

HB25-1096 will help streamline the permitting process by introducing an automated online platform for most residential solar and battery permits. This not only reduces the time and cost to get approvals but also eliminates uncertainty, allowing families to confidently make decisions about how to improve their homes. Importantly, it also offers families the option for remote inspections, meaning they won't have to take time off work or rearrange their schedules for an in-person visit.

This bill is a win for families who are trying to do the right thing by switching to clean energy, and it helps Colorado meet its clean energy goals without burdening our state or local governments with unnecessary costs. This is an opportunity to reduce red tape and ensure every family can benefit from the clean energy transition.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please support HB25-1096 for the good of our families and future generations.

Sincerely,

Sara Kuntzler, Colorado State Director

Mountain Mamas

February 13, 2025

Representatives Smith and Brown, and Senator Ball;

The Colorado Chapter of the International Code Council (CCICC) is a professional dedicated to promoting building safety, local code adoption, and professional development across the state. As a chapter of the International Code Council, we work closely with local and state agencies to support the implementation and enforcement of modern building codes, ensuring safe and resilient communities. Our chapter actively engages in policy discussions, offering expert guidance on legislation impacting the construction industry. Additionally, we provide continuing education, certification training, and networking opportunities to help building officials, inspectors, and industry professionals stay informed on best practices and regulatory updates. Through these efforts, we strive to enhance public safety, improve construction standards, and foster a knowledgeable workforce committed to excellence in the built environment.

We write to express concerns regarding the proposed bill mandating the adoption of a solar permitting platform in jurisdictions with over 5,000 residents. While streamlining the solar permitting process is important, there are several issues that warrant careful consideration.

First, previous evaluations of similar solar permit software have shown compatibility challenges with existing permitting systems, limiting their practical implementation. Additionally, such platforms do not conduct site-specific structural inspections, which are crucial for assessing the adequacy of existing roof framing—especially for older homes with stick-framed roofs. Many jurisdictions require an engineer's report for roof framing verification, which is not addressed by the proposed platform.

Additionally, many local fire districts' requirements separate from the initial permitting process that can require manual intervention as well as referral processes to ensure that all safety precautions are followed. This is because some fire districts require separate permitting for solar photovoltaic systems of varying size and scale, as well as variances in performing rooftop operations which may lead to project changes to accommodate walkways on the roof and specific equipment for shutting a system down during an emergency.

The bill also mandates remote inspections as part of its enforcement mechanisms for solar systems. This should be thoughtfully considered by individual jurisdictions based on their comfort with technology, staffing, resources and capacity to provide the expected level of service to accommodate this move to remote inspections. It's important to consider that inspections occur in a 3-dimensional environment where inspectors are

looking for crucial details by a thorough examination of the jobsite, not simply individual components to check a box.

The bill primarily ensures sufficient electrical infrastructure for new solar panel installations but does not account for structural and roofing concerns, which remain critical aspects of solar panel installation. While this focus is beneficial in some respects, it underscores the need for additional guidance to assist jurisdictions in reviewing solar panel designs and inspections.

Moreover, reports from other jurisdictions indicate that solar permitting software may not always conduct proper wire sizing reviews, leading to last-minute corrections that delay installation and increase costs. The requirement for remote inspections further raises concerns about the thoroughness of electrical and structural verifications.

Currently, jurisdictions typically prioritize residential solar permits and process them efficiently within a few days. The proposed legislation could impose unnecessary modifications to existing permitting systems, adding complexity without clear benefits.

Given these concerns, we recommend reconsidering the need for this legislation and engaging in discussion with the local experts that are readily available to help craft effective solutions to the problems you seek to address. Should you have any questions regarding our position or would like to engage further with stakeholder discussion, we are happy to discuss.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andre Jaen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andre Jaen, Legislative Committee Co-Chair

House Finance

03/20/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1096 Automated Permits for Clean Energy Tech

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Robert Nass For Honey Bee Solar	<p>My name is Robert Nass, and I'm a project manager/permitting employee at Honey bee Solar. I'm writing to express how critical I believe HB25-1096 is for the solar industry.</p> <p>One of the biggest challenges I face daily is the permitting process. The length of time between submission and completion often leads to customer dissatisfaction and project cancellations due to the lengthy interconnection and county agreement timelines. A faster, more precise permitting process would significantly increase the amount of solar we install and greatly improve customer peace of mind.</p> <p>Colorado is currently lagging behind in solar sales and installations. As someone working directly in the industry, I can attest that time is a critical factor in sales. Therefore, I strongly recommend the passage of HB25-1096.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Robert</p>