

**Austin Gut**

Hello, my name is Austin Gut and I appreciate the opportunity I was given to testify here. I am a senior at the University of Colorado at Boulder and am majoring in History and Political Science. I believe SB181 is necessary because the people of this state deserve to live a quality of life that includes clean air to breathe, a safe water supply, and the luxury of looking upon the mountains without haze.

Several generations ago, our forefathers established residence along the Front Range. They saw the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and were determined to build a strong and lasting community. However, overtime the population rose and the oil industry was able to settle in Colorado. I have lived in Colorado for 9 years and have experienced a countless amount of mornings where I walked outside and took a deep breath. There have also been mornings where I could not be outdoors for more than a few minutes at a time due to the smog. As I grow older, I worry about generations that may never witness those clear, crisp mornings. Everytime I turn on the weather channel, I see a 'moderate' health hazard due to current conditions. Highway US-36 continuously has notifications to carpool to help the environment. Without intervention, my generation may be the last that knows Colorado for it's true beauty and environmental bliss. Coloradans to come should not have to suffer in an unhealthy living environment. Senate Bill 19-181 is the next step that we must take to protect my future, and the future of other Coloradans by decreasing our rate of greenhouse gas emissions.

By cutting emissions in accordance with the framework that this bill lays out, we have the chance to turn Colorado back into the nature- lovers hub that it once was. We have a responsibility not only to the residents of Colorado, but to the impeccable landscape we all have the luxury of living in every day. We must protect our people, our wildlife, and our air.

No Coloradan. No, no human should have to worry about their own health or safety from the comfort of their own home.. This Bill will ensure that the public does not stand in harm's way. Please vote yes on Senate Bill 19-181 in order to preserve the beautiful state of Colorado and allow our residents access to the clean air and water that we are all entitled to. Thank you.

## **Dana Villareal**

Hello everyone. My name is Dana Villareal. I am a sophomore at the University of Colorado at Boulder, studying Education. I am here representing myself as a young person concerned about the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions on our climate.

A healthy climate is extremely important to us in Colorado. Our snowy mountains and ski slopes bring us joy and commerce. Our glaciers and snowpack supply us with water. Our clean air allows us to enjoy outdoor activities. Yet all of this is dependent on our ability to care for our climate, and address the pollution that is putting our state and earth at risk. The time to act is now, and legislation like House Bill 1261 is what we need.

Climate change is especially pertinent to young people. As we demonstrated in the last election, many young voters consider energy & the environment as a top issue. Each generation inherits everything the previous generation built, as well as all the problems they created. We have known for years that climate change is coming, and the generation before us has failed to take tangible action. Because of this the problem of climate change grows every day, ensuring dire consequences. I will say it again: the time to act is now. If nothing is done by you, our leaders, my generation will inherit a hot, polluted world. We will inherit disease, hurricanes, and flooding shores. We will inherit water shortages, species extinction, and massive refugee crisis. We will inherit air quality that contributes to asthma, heart disease, and cancer. You have the opportunity today to reduce the risks of this future. You have the opportunity today to protect Colorado's climate future.

Today, you can take the lead on fighting climate change in Colorado, and you can help set the example for the rest of the US. I urge you to support house bill 19-1261 as Colorado's next step towards leading on climate change policy.

## **Lauren Smith**

Thank you Mx. Chair

My name is Lauren Smith, I'm here representing myself, and I am asking you to vote yes on HB 1261 today.

Growing up in Boulder, climate change and the environment were always at the forefront of my mind, as well as the minds of my peers. During the 2017 and 2018 elections, I worked closely with voters of my generation, and across the board one of the key issues that young people care about is climate change.

In the 2018 election, young people turned out in record numbers to vote, and now that the election is over, it's time for our elected officials to represent the wants and, more importantly, the needs of their constituents. Climate change is a terrifying truth that looms over the heads of my generation's attempts to plan our lives. Too often, when I talk to my friends about our futures, the conversation turns grim, as we are forced to include the caveat that life may look very different in 30 years. Over the coming years, climate change will affect much of how we live our lives, especially when it comes to family planning, as we grapple with the impacts this damaged earth will have on the generations that inherit it. Now, with HB 1261, we have the opportunity to shift the conversation.

Too often, climate change is framed as an issue that is largely caused by ordinary citizens, and that recycling, biking to work, and cutting down on meat consumption are the cures. It's a privilege to be able to do things that reduce your impact on the environment; few places have comprehensive and accessible recycling and compost systems, going vegetarian or vegan can be expensive, and low income communities have fewer choices when it comes to local, organic produce. The irony in all of this is that these same communities are impacted the most by climate change, and "living green" is a luxury few can afford. It's time to stop shaming ordinary people and recognize that the true fault lies within people in power who have ignored this issue for far too long, and refused to be proactive about it until the consequences were staring them in the face.

House Bill 1261 sets strong, science-based goals for our state, and charges the Air Quality Control Commission with laying plans for tangible reduction in pollution. House bill 1261 is what we need. While we as individuals will continue to use our resources to lower our impact on the environment, Coloradans expect our representatives to use their resources to lower the entire state's impact on the environment. It's easy to think of climate change as abstract and far away, but we are reaching a tipping point. If we don't have massive, radical shift right now, we are dooming ourselves, our children, and our futures. This is not about saving the earth for the sake of the earth, this is about the real people that will be impacted right now. For the health, safety, and general wellbeing of the people of Colorado, I urge you to vote yes on HB 1261.

## **Madison Hammer**

My name is Madison Hammer, and I am here representing myself. I am from Dallas, Texas, but I moved here nearly four years ago to attend the University of Colorado at Boulder. A majority of the colleges I applied to years ago were in my home state, though when making the decision on where to go, I recalled how happy I was to be in the mountains when I visited Colorado years before as a child; it was an easy choice from there. I am here today to ask you to vote yes on House Bill 1261, and work to preserve the Colorado that brought me to where I am today.

When I was sixteen, I was diagnosed with asthma; I was given an inhaler, though until I came to Colorado for college, I could count on one hand the amount of times I had used it. Coming to Colorado, the mountain air we all know and love was wonderful to experience on a daily basis. I live an active lifestyle, regularly working out outside on the track or a hiking trail. Being outside is part of my everyday life. Over the years, I've noticed a slow, but definite change in my breathing. The mountain air I believed to be benefiting me was turning sour. Soon, I began to regularly wake up wheezing. I racked my brain on why my breathing had been deteriorating, even buying a small air filter to mitigate any in-house allergens or pollutants; though it was when outside that I noticed the biggest difference in my breathing. It became clear that the pollution released into the air outside is what affects my ability to breathe. House Bill 1261 will help Colorado foster the clean mountain air that I need in order breathe easily.

Capitalizing on this realization, I began to pay more attention and noticed that the fumes of vehicles and industrial buildings had a large effect on my ability to breathe well. I've since researched those very effects, finding countless articles on the consequences of living near major roadways, oil & gas drilling sites, or in other industrial locations. The American Lung Association has noted that traffic pollution increases certain detrimental health effects such as "the onset of childhood asthma, impaired lung function, and premature death. An *increased* risk of premature death. When the air itself, accessible to everybody and is seemingly free, begins to cost you your quality of life, and life itself, we have an issue.

As a college student, I do not have the luxury to afford residence away from urban roads and freeways, or in a neighborhood that does not zone for large highways to operate right next-door. These issues disproportionality effect those of lower socioeconomic class, as I have lived it first-hand, and even after a few short years of living here, have felt the consequences. How will I feel in twenty-years? How will my neighbors feel in twenty years? We can begin to envision positive answers to the questions that I have posed if you, my elected representatives, take my health seriously by voting yes on House Bill 1261. Thank you for your time.

## **Danielle Grimm**

Thank you Madame Chair.

My name is Danielle Grimm; I represent myself, my generation, and generations to come. I am here today to urge support for the bold climate policies HB19-1261 intends to enact. One does not have to be an expert in climate or catastrophe studies to notice the recent eyebrow-raising environmental trends threatening the natural fixtures that make Colorado what it is. Evidence of climate change can be found in our own backyard, and this bill represents direct protection against it for my future, that of my peers, and that of our breathtaking state.

Snow-covered mountains and clear running streams define life in Colorado. However, the effects of climate change have this way of life hanging on the precipice of extinction. The past decade saw a global spike of violently inconsistent weather patterns that reflect climate change's rapid manifestation. Our weather swings from one extreme to the next on a daily basis, with news headlines becoming steadily more severe over time: record highs in December, record lows in May, a string of dry winters, and summer forest fires that have become the new norm. Moreover, the presence of pollutants in our atmosphere - ones that HB 1261 aims to reduce such as mercury, arsenic, sulfur dioxide - has caused a surge of health effects across the globe: respiratory problems, heart disease, cancer, and eons more all exacerbated by the rising global temperatures threatening not only our beloved natural resources, but our lives directly.

In light of the Trump administration's blatant attacks on science-based environmental policies, Colorado has a responsibility to take a proactive stance. Given our history of spearheading innovative energy policies, from a renewable energy standard to strong methane rules for oil and gas, Colorado is perfectly poised to set the standard and protect everything we love about our state.

Human impact directly and undeniably contributes to climate change, and by limiting the emissions special interest groups pump into the environment, we would prevent climate change's further advance. By that token alone, one fact is overwhelmingly clear: we as a species are on the defensive, unable to take a proactive stance given the degree of damage already done. However, by prioritizing such common sense legislation, our representatives could slow these impacts and prevent the headlines from becoming even more severe. My generation understands the moral obligation we have to maintain a liveable Colorado for our younger generations and their quality of life, and I hope our legislators feel the same. On behalf of young people committed to protecting what makes Colorado special, I urge your support for HB 1261.

## **Olivia Manke**

Thank You Madame Chair. My name is Olivia Manke and I am representing myself today. I am a senior at CU Boulder studying Environmental Studies and am here to urge your support for house bill 19-1261. Climate change will inevitably impact my generation, as well as generations to come in the near future. For this reason, a vote "yes" on this bill is an absolutely necessary step that we must take now.

If our emission rates in Colorado continue to go "as are" we will continue to see increased air pollutants and rising temperatures that will exacerbate associated health problems. For example, it has recently been discovered that one pollutant, ppm, once inhaled by a pregnant woman can enter her bloodstream through her lungs and be transferred into the placenta. What will it mean for our families in the future, if fetuses are being exposed to and affected by toxins before they are even born? It is important to me, as well as my fellow millennials that we maintain Colorado's natural, arid climate throughout the summers and protect our future children's health from the impacts of climate change.

By passing this legislation and following the timely framework for decreasing our greenhouse gas emissions as a state, you all have the opportunity to do right by not only my generation, but all future generations as well. It will ensure clean air, drinkable water, and a transition towards a clean energy economy that will not only make living in Colorado healthier, but will create good paying jobs and spark innovation in our economy. It is time we take serious, bold action against climate change and voting yes on house bill 19-1261 is a great way to start.

So many young people worry every day our changing climate, and if the world we live in will be uninhabitable for our futures. This is not something that should be on the shoulders of a 22 year old. Your vote "yes" on this bill today will be a vote for our Colorado's future. Please vote yes on house bill 19-1261 so that we can continue to raise children in the beautiful, arid, and seasonal climate of Colorado.

## **Matt Washburn**

My name is Matt Washburn and I am from Aurora, Colorado and live in Boulder. I am here today, representing myself, to urge you to support house bill 19-1261, a "Climate Action Plan To Reduce Pollution."

As a graduate from CU Boulder, and having worked as an organizer on multiple environmental campaigns, I can attest that the health and safety of our environment is one of the most pressing issues for the members of my generation. Effects of climate change have been exacerbated by oil and gas operations and have led to the American Lung Association ranking Denver the 14th most polluted city in the US in 2018. With pollution correlated with high rates of asthma, heart disease, and cancer, it is imperative we begin taking this data seriously in order to ensure the quality of life that Colorado's residents experience. Likewise, studies conducted by the UN paint a much more bleak image of climate change's effects than previously thought, indicating we have 12 years to revamp our energy infrastructure to prevent the worst effects: large food shortages, droughts, 143 million displaced from their homes by 2050, and a mass-die off of coral reefs by 2040.

This issue is of particular importance for me because we owe it to the upcoming generations to work as hard as we can to leave them an inhabitable planet. I want each person to have clean air regardless of geographic location or socioeconomic status. People currently die each day due to the effects of air pollution and as urbanization increases and Climate Change accelerates, public health will only worsen. If I ever have kids, I don't want them to ask me, "Why didn't you solve this when you had the opportunity." We owe it to future generations to work on this issue now.

House bill 19-1261 will reduce carbon pollution, by at least 25 percent by 2026 and 90 percent by 2050 compared to 2005 levels by directing the **Air Quality Control Commission** to create cost-effective regulations to cut pollution- improving public health and advance our state economy into the 21st Century by setting the infrastructure for clean energy jobs and technology.

Young people care about climate change, and youth voter turnout in Colorado was the second highest in the nation in the 2018 midterm elections. We elected leaders who campaigned on the promise that they will make responsible environmental decisions by creating and passing common sense legislation such as House bill 19-1261. It's been demonstrated that decisions made collaboratively in Colorado indicate the way the rest of the country will move in the near future. By passing this bill, Colorado will set standards for the rest of the nation to aspire to.

Please vote yes on House bill 19-1261, and ensure a better, healthier future for all Coloradans. Thank you for your time.