

**NEW BELGIUM  
BREWING**

April 22, 2019

Colorado General Assembly  
200 E Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the State, Veterans &amp; Military Affairs Committee,

On behalf of New Belgium Brewing's 700 employee-owners, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1261. The 500,000 U.S. jobs that the craft beer industry supports – including over 22,000 here in Colorado – depend on a stable climate, and we believe that strong emission reduction targets for Colorado are essential in ensuring long-term climate stability.

Climate change is a critical issue for Colorado's brewing industry, putting both the quality and availability of beer's main ingredients – water, barley, hops and specialty ingredients such as citrus fruit – at risk. Barley crops in western states have been harmed by increasingly erratic weather patterns in recent years. Citrus crops have been decimated by abnormally intense hurricane seasons, and water availability in the west remains a top issue of concern. Given the scope and scale of this issue, we believe that coordinated action at the state level is critical, and would complement the commitments made by businesses, organizations and cities across the state.

New Belgium knows the economic opportunity of reducing carbon-related risk and accelerating clean energy adoption. We have seen these benefits firsthand, spending 28 years investing in on-site solar, creating electricity from wastewater, capturing and repurposing heat in the brewing process, and achieving LEED certification at our new brewery. We are continually striving to find new and innovative ways to reduce our emissions not only because it's the right thing to do, but because it makes business sense. These investments help our company save money, as well as stay nimble and competitive in the brewing industry.

This bill is an important step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which will provide significant economic benefits to the state and help create a sustainable future for all Coloradans. HB 1261 will build upon the more than 62,000 Coloradans already employed in clean energy, while capturing jobs, investment, and tax revenues along the clean energy supply chain. It will also spur technological innovation across all sectors of the state's growing and diverse economy. We urge you to support HB 1261 and ensure Colorado remains a leader in the low-carbon economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Steve Fechheimer*Steve Fechheimer, Chief Executive Officer  
New Belgium Brewing

April 22, 2019

Colorado General Assembly  
200 E Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Support for HB 1261 Climate Action Plan To Reduce Pollution

Dear Members of the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,

As the Sustainability Director at Aspen Skiing Company, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1261. Aspen Skiing Company operates four ski areas, four hotels, restaurants, retail stores, and employee housing units. We employ 4,000 people and are dedicated to providing world-class outdoor recreation opportunities to our guests, anchoring our local economy, being a strong contributor to Colorado's statewide tourism industry while supporting our community.

We are living in a world where climate change is no longer something of the future. It's happening before our eyes. Annual snowfall is decreasing and snow levels are rising. Winters are shorter and spring is arriving much earlier. Climate change studies suggest that Aspen's climate will be like Amarillo, Texas's climate today in 2100. Our average temperature in Aspen has increased 2 degrees C (3.6 F) in the last 25 years. We have a month more frost-free days than we did in 1980.

We are a business that depends on policy change to address changing climate for our future prosperity and livelihoods. This bill supports a necessary transition to a low-carbon economy that would enhance the long-term economic vitality and growth of our state.

At Aspen Skiing Company, we've invested heavily in clean energy across our operations, including four solar arrays, a hydroelectric plant, and a variety of energy efficiency measures. We even built a \$5.5 million plant at the Elk Creek Mine in Somerset, CO that captures methane to generate electricity. These investments will help us meet our goal to reduce our carbon emissions 25% by

2020, while benefitting our bottom line – saving us money, hedging against volatile fuel prices, and keeping us competitive.

This bill is critical for the longevity of Colorado's ski and outdoor recreation industry, which is a driving force for our state's economy. There are 229,000 people like me working in the industry across our state and consumers spend \$28 billion annually with our businesses. Ski areas in Colorado employ 43,000 and contribute \$2.6 billion to Colorado's economy. In the 2015-2016 season, Colorado led the nation with over 13.1 million skier visits but, in low snowfall years, we see nearly 500,000 fewer skier visits.

Snow is our currency. Climate change is the most significant business risk we face. It also challenges the many communities across our state whose local economies are dependent on a strong snowpack. Across the state, resorts have made significant actions to mitigate climate change and are leading examples that decarbonization is good for business.

Establishing targets to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions is a key step to protecting our state's economic future. HB 1261 will encourage the development of local clean energy projects that generate cost savings and jobs, improve public health, and spur technological innovation. We hope you will maintain Colorado's leadership in the clean energy economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Matthew Hamilton  
Sustainability Director  
Aspen Skiing Company

Christine Berg

1605 Parkside Circle

Lafayette, Colorado

My name is Christine Berg. I am the Colorado Field Consultant for Moms Clean Air Force, an organization of 1 million moms, dads fighting air pollution and the impact of climate disruption on our children's health. I am also a mother to two young girls ages 2 and 5 years old, and recently finished out a 7-year term on the Lafayette city council, including 5 years as mayor. I have traveled here today to testify in favor of HB-19-1261.

Now is the time to cut carbon pollution in the state. Last month in the Denver-metro area we had such elevated levels of fine particulate matter that our air quality index was three times worse than the air in Beijing. The pollutions triggered health warnings and restricted visibility throughout the Front Range. I've never looked at the weather app on my phone before and seen "Unhealthy Air Quality" listed at the top; honestly it was scary. I know mothers who were so concerned about the air quality that they asked their children's school to keep them inside during recess.

Putting a limit on carbon will improve our air quality and public health particularly those most vulnerable; Colorado's children. This bill will literally save lives - The World Health Organization estimates that 4.6 million people die each **year from** causes directly attributable to **air pollution**. Air pollution leads to premature death, asthma attacks in children, and many other life-threatening illnesses.

A recent study compiled in collaboration with CSU researchers found there are more than 750,000 asthma attacks in kids nationwide linked to ozone smog from industrial activities. The study calculated 32,477 asthma attacks afflicting kids in Colorado, which ranked third in the nation behind Texas and Oklahoma.

As a former local elected official, I know first-hand how the climate crisis impacts local municipalities who are on the front-lines of catastrophic flooding and wildfires ending in the loss of homes, businesses and lives.

In the state of Colorado people come to ski, hike, fish and hunt. Last year we welcomed over 80 million tourists. The outdoor recreation economy brings in a \$62 billion to our state economy every year. Colorado is seventh for renewable energy jobs, with **17,000 people** working in renewable energy. Overall the state has **57,591 people** working in clean energy industries.

This bill protects our air, our environment and our health while building on the economic success of the renewable energy sector by driving innovation and creating thousands of jobs that cannot be outsourced.

Placing a firm limit on carbon pollution and letting that carbon pollution “limit” drive a price in the market can help ensure the most cost-effective deployment of zero-emission resources and energy efficiency in Colorado.

It is time we show courage and leadership; NASA, the Department of Defense, and all leading scientific organizations say that climate pollution is a threat to our economy and our national security. Colorado needs to be a leader in carbon emission reductions and climate action and we need your leadership to bring 21st Century energy solutions to our beautiful state.

Colorado will serve as a model for other states to adopt similar legislation. This is an incredible opportunity to create better health outcomes for our children. Perhaps most importantly; we cannot continue to waste precious time in our race against the clock to combat climate change. Our planet earth is on life support, and we need to accelerate moving forward with solutions and innovation. The time is now!

My name is Sandi Sturm, a Climate Reality Leader from Grand Junction, and I want to show my support for HB19-1261.

I have enjoyed certain freedoms in my life and the one I have enjoyed most is location freedom.

My husband and I are fortunate to have travelled about a quarter of a million miles around North America with our work. What this has done is given me a personal perspective and visual reference beyond the news.

I feel the sadness and suffering of those displaced by the ever-increasing climate related "inconveniences." Imagine having an hours' notice to pack up your belongings and escape a wildfire. We have driven through more than one such event. A visual that haunts me still is seeing families pull out of their driveways in Yukon, Canada with the back of their truck loaded with possessions, knowing that what remains will be ash by morning. This is also experienced by Colorado families more and more each fire season.

Watching the news of Gatlinburg, Tennessee on fire hit my heart as we worked with many of the small business owners who lost their shops and some, even their homes. This was not just a news story, it was as real life to me as to those directly affected.

When storms hit the Florida coast and flood waters rise inside living rooms, I can visualize times spent with family on that very couch that is now ankle deep in yuck.

I have watched houses fall into melting glacier fed rivers in Alaska because of extremely high temperatures melting the glacier a few miles upstream.

I have heard personal stories of stranded polar bears in villages where I once walked. Those same villages now are unable to get their subsistence salmon because the salmon are not returning.

As California and the west is burning, I can visualize natural places that will never be as they were, in our lifetimes. Giant redwoods; clean, clear waterfalls; pristine skies.

Wayne and I were personally evacuated from two wildfires in Oregon within 6 weeks which caused us great hardship.

We have many such stories – too many to ignore.

Yet, there are still deniers.

I fully support HB19-1261 in hopes that my family, friends and their families, and you and your families, do not need to suffer the hardships that staying with the status quo will undoubtedly bring, not just to Coloradans, but to people all over the world.

Thank you.

Steven C. Schechter  
912 N. Boulevard St.  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
970-209-5815  
[mtnsolar.schechter@gmail.com](mailto:mtnsolar.schechter@gmail.com)

4/17/19

Dear Colorado House Members,

I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 19-1261.

I was elected to Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) board of directors by the membership of that organization in 2011 and served until I moved out of my district in 2016. I was very well educated by GCEA in all aspects of electrical power production, management, and economics of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

During my time on the board of GCEA I began to believe that if the human race is to survive, Climate Change needs to be addressed by everyone, not just some people and some organizations. We all need to address how we generate electricity, run our transportation systems, and energize our homes and businesses. It is essential that we quickly move towards decarbonizing all of these systems and move to 100% renewable energy. We need to spend money and effort to make our homes, businesses and transportation systems much more energy efficient. We have a long ways to go and must start with a hard time-table for reductions of Colorado's greenhouse gas emissions by the Colorado Air Quality Commission.

All of Colorado and all Coloradans must be part of the solution. Right now small cooperatives and small municipal power departments are not covered by the Colorado Renewable Energy Portfolio standards. Out-of-state energy suppliers who supply energy to entities in Colorado are not covered by our renewable standards. This needs to change. All energy supplied to and used by Colorado ratepayers needs be moving towards zero carbon, with no exceptions.

I believe that HB19-1261 is a very good way to move Colorado to 100% renewable energy and help to keep climate change from ruining our economy. Moving to rapidly decarbonize Colorado's economy will bring new innovation and jobs to

Colorado and help businesses and residents prosper with clean affordable renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Schechter

To Committee Members:

As the owner of an outdoor sporting goods store, my business , the economy of Chaffee County and much of Colorado depends on healthy public lands. Recreational tourism is one of the main economic drivers for many places in Colorado. We see the changes and variability in weather patterns and the effect on the local economy. In dry years, forest fires threaten summer business, and lack of winter snowfall leads to decreased skiers visiting local ski areas. Low river flows mean fewer rafting customers. If we do not take steps to mitigate climate change, we risk losing or damaging natural resources that fuel the livelihood of many Colorado families.

Economics is not the only reason to support HB 1261. Climate change driven by carbon emissions also threatens wildlife, property and human life. Many species are being stressed by a changing environment. Animals already on the brink of extinction may be pushed over the edge if their habitat changes drastically. There have been many recent examples of extreme weather having a devastating effect on people and property. Extreme weather has become the new normal, therefore we must take all possible steps to minimize man made contributions to climate change.

Scientists overwhelmingly agree that carbon emissions are the number one cause of climate change. If there is still any doubt about the role of human created carbon emissions, that is really irrelevant. The fact is the climate is changing. The smart bet would be to do all we can to reduce emissions to protect our natural resources, wildlife, property and livelihoods. We owe it to the earth that sustains our lives, and the lives of future generations to do all we can to protect the planet.

Sincerely, Nate Porter

Salida, CO

Dear Senators.

Thank you for taking my testimony today as member of the Senate State Affairs Committee. I am a retired Air Force veteran living in rural Boulder County and I am speaking today on behalf of our children, their children, and the follow-on generations.

I urge you to pass HB1261 and support it when it gets to a floor vote. Climate change (aka human climate disruption) is already happening and is already impacting on our lives in Colorado, and much more so on the lives of those recently affected by huge, devastating fires and hurricanes around the country. Climate change increases the likelihood of prolonged drought, catastrophic forest fires, epic flooding, and unpredictable snowfall.

Colorado is already 2°F hotter than it was 30 years ago. All 64 of Colorado's counties have had national weather disasters declared since 2010. This is not normal anymore. This is a huge crisis, even if we in Colorado have not seen its worse effects up close and personal. This affects my family, and my children's future. Denver is the 8th most polluted city in the country and this year has had more than five days above the EPA limit with smog levels above 120 (that's higher than Beijing). The EPA standard for 2015 is 70. According to NOAA, 45% of that smog is caused by oil and gas operations, 45% by transportation, and 10% by factories, chemical plants and other industrial operations.

17 Mayors/Cities/Counties in Colorado already have campaigns underway to achieve 100% renewable electricity, including Denver city and County—the largest city and county by population in the state, and Governor Polis campaigned on a goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2040. We simply cannot allow climate tipping points to be reached. Their effects on our environment, ecological systems, and humanity will be catastrophic if we don't begin to make *significant* changes now.

Please pass HB1261. Thank you.

Darryl Dargitz

Dear State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee Members,

I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, and urge you to pass HB1261.

I moved to Colorado in the 1980's per my doctor's advice to seek clean air to abate the chronic asthma I was experiencing. For many years, I enjoyed the health benefits of clean air. Much to my surprise and disappointment, I have recently gotten many poor air quality alerts on my phone, and unfortunately, my lungs often alert me before my phone does.

The climate change that is currently happening is beginning to impact my health.

After spending some prolonged time in Summit County earlier this year, I was very upset to feel my lungs close up when I got back to Boulder. In all these years, I have never been impacted by Boulder's air quality. Something has drastically changed.

My children were born and raised in Colorado, and I am so saddened to think that the clean air I moved here for many years ago, is no longer available to them. One of my children has also experienced lung disease that is exacerbated on poor air quality days.

I have personally experienced the devastating flooding of my home, and have faced evacuation due to threats from wildfires. The Colorado climate is warning us to act quickly while we still can.

It is still in our power to curb these threats through reducing greenhouse gases.

For the sake of our health and environment, please pass HB1261.

Thank you,  
Sue Keston

Dear Legislators,

I am a native Coloradan, senior citizen, have lived all over the state and love it dearly, and currently live on the Front Range. All my life I have enjoyed our crisp clean air. Our ability to sleep with open windows, enjoying the fresh cool breezes. It was one of Colorado's great assets — especially as an escape from hot humid climates.

This priceless asset has become full of poisonous substances and dangerous particles. Last summer air quality advisories for excessive ozone and particulates instructed sensitive individuals and seniors to avoid outdoor exercise — for many, many days. Imagine — our beautiful Colorado! With air so toxic that we can't walk outside!

The solution is no mystery. We need to take strong action to reclaim our air quality. It will take collective action and state level leadership. Please vote for HB19-1261 to help restore our air quality and protect our climate.

Thank you,  
Diane Curlette

Testimony from Katie Charles in support of HB19-1261.

Address: 251 Magnolia St, Denver

My name is Katie Charles and I am a mother of two boys, ages 7 and 8. It is for them that I am supporting HB1261. As a mom, nothing is more important to me than my boys, so I am speaking up today to protect their future.

We have been wasting time for too long, bickering about whether climate change was real or how we were going to address it. Well, we're now behind on this issue so the time for action is right now. Actually, it was many years ago but for crying out loud let's at least get a move on now. And because we have wasted so much time, climate change is already happening and the action we need to take to ensure things don't get terribly worse needs to be real action. We need to be as serious about addressing this issue as the issue itself is.

Our kids deserve to grow up and play in pollution free air and we need your help to make that happen. As parents, we do everything we can to protect our kids, but we alone cannot control the air they breathe. We need strong protections enacted by our elected officials.

According to a recent study by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, "Climate change will make it harder for any given regulatory approach to reduce ground-level ozone pollution in the future as meteorological conditions become increasingly conducive to forming ozone over most of the United States. Unless offset by additional emissions reductions, these climate-driven increases in ozone will cause premature deaths, hospital visits, lost school days, and acute respiratory symptoms."

We also know that climate change will increase the number and severity of wildfires which in turn increases emissions of particulate matter and ozone precursors. We'll also see an increase in extreme weather and droughts in addition to an increase in geographic distribution and prevalence of insect carried diseases. Temperature related death and disease are also predicted to increase.

This is not the future that any of us want for our children. We are so grateful that you have taken on carbon pollution and I hope that you will pass it quickly. Colorado can lead the way and we can be a national leader on climate. It is critical that we act today so that we can give our children the future they deserve. Thank you.

Thank you for taking my testimony today as member of the Senate State Affairs Committee. I am a mother of two living in rural Boulder County and I am speaking today on behalf of my two sons, Leo and Jack, ages 5 and 3. I urge you to pass HB1261 and support it when it gets to a floor vote. Climate change is already happening and is already having impact on our lives. Climate change increases the likelihood of prolonged drought, catastrophic forest fires, epic flooding, and unpredictable snowfall. It's already affecting us in Colorado and its impact on our livelihood and our economy will only increase over time. Colorado is already 2°F hotter than it was 30 years ago, and the recent bomb-cyclone dropped the pressure from mile-high to sea level in less than 24 hours and is the strongest recorded bombogenesis ever. It's gone on to cause massive flooding, crop distribution and livestock loss throughout the Midwest and Plains states. All 64 of Colorado's counties have had national weather disasters declared since 2010.

This is not normal anymore. This is a crisis. This affects my family, and my children's future. Denver is the 8th most polluted city in the country and this year has had more than five days above the EPA limit with smog levels above 120 (that's higher than Beijing). The EPA standard for 2015 is 70. According to NOAA, 45% of that smog is caused by oil and gas operations, 45% by transportation, and 10% by factories, chemical plants and other industrial operations.

17 Mayors/Cities/Counties in Colorado already have campaigns underway to achieve 100% renewable electricity, including Denver city and County—the largest city and county by population in the state, and Governor Polis campaigned on a goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2040.

Ladies and gentleman, there is a disturbing trend in the climate, and it's accelerating. Another hopeful trend is that humans are taking action on the crisis in growing numbers. We must join, for the future of our state and those who come after us.

Please pass HB1261.

Thank you,  
Katie Farnan

4728 Berkshire Ct  
Boulder, CO 80301

**To Senate Committee Members**

Re: HB1261

*States that Colorado shall have statewide goals to reduce 2025 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26%, 2030 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50%, and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% of the levels of greenhouse gas emissions that existed in 2005*

Please include this letter into the official record hearing on HB 1261. I have worked in public lands in Colorado and western United States for the past 55 years. During the past 20 plus years, I have seen a number of negative impacts on stream flows, increased forest fires and in vegetation. All of these changes are a reduction in the economy, social values and the outdoor recreation in the State.

Your passage of HB1261 is certainly an important and positive action for all values and resources within Colorado. It is also an example for the Nation that Colorado is a leader in the critical issue of Climate Change.

I do support the passage of HB 1261.

Regards,

Jerry Mallett  
President

Colorado Headwaters. Org

My name is Mark Waltermire. I'm testifying in support of House Bill 1261, for myself and representing the Valley Organic Growers Association. We support this bill because climate change threatens our farms and businesses, and our future, and this bill is a good step in the process of addressing it.

I farm in Hotchkiss, Colorado, and sit on the Board of Directors of the Valley Organic Growers Association (VOGA), a non-profit membership organization in the North Fork Valley with over 100 members. We represent small and medium-sized farms producing, among other products, fruit, vegetables, grapes and wine, grains, flowers, beef, poultry and cheese.

Our valley, the North Fork Valley of the Gunnison River, has the largest concentration of organic growers in the state. We rely on dependable water and predictable weather to reliably produce food and other agricultural products. Climate change threatens both our water supplies and the weather parameters that allow us to grow our products. Slowing and mediating climate change is necessary to ensure we can continue to feed people and to drive the economy of the North Fork. Reducing carbon emissions is a necessary step in addressing climate change, and this bill is a fair, achievable means to that end.

This bill gives us clear, achievable goals for carbon emissions, gives the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission clear direction, and ensures the public will be involved in the process of crafting methods of achieving carbon pollution reduction goals.

Thank you for your time, and we appreciate your support of HB 1261.

This testimony is being read by \_\_\_\_\_ for Deborah Kennard, a resident of Grand Junction, Colorado.

I am a scientist and a science educator. Every semester, I update my lectures with the most recent, discouraging, but predictable facts- that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases, continue to rise in our atmosphere, year after year...after year...after year.

The stronger hurricanes, larger and more intense fires, droughts, and floods that scientists predicted when I was learning about climate change decades ago as a student are no longer something that will happen in the future. They are happening now and they are affecting people now, in *very* real ways.

Colorado has a lot at stake. The massive forest die-offs we have seen this past decade caused by the mountain pine beetle, spruce beetle and sudden aspen decline began with the drought that started almost two decades ago. We can expect more severe droughts and more forest die-offs in our future. We know that forest fires will become more common and more severe, and the smoky air from those fires could become the summer norm. We were able to walk across the Colorado River in Grand Junction last July and not get our knees wet. *40 million people* depend on that water down river. Actually, just about *everything* depends on the river in the desert, but we are starting to even see *unexpected* changes to our river, including the loss of several iconic cottonwood forests along the Colorado River to wildfires. Riparian forests are not supposed to burn.

There is *no* scientific debate about the causes and major consequences of climate change. It is *real*. It is caused by *us*. It is happening *now*. And it has already affected lives and livelihoods.

We *know* what to do. There are proven technologies and strategies used in the US and around the world that are starting to make a dent, but what we are doing is simply not enough. We know, and *you* know, that to stop the most catastrophic effects of climate change, we need to cut greenhouse gas emission much, *much* more *right now*. To do that, we need our elected leaders to act.

The argument that addressing climate change is bad for the economy is simply not true. The top two fastest growing jobs at the US Bureau of Labor Statistics today are solar panel installer and wind turbine technician. The most recent report of the levelized cost of energy (without subsidies) from Lazard shows that wind energy is now *cheaper* than natural gas.

*There is no good argument for failing to act.* Support HB 19 – 1261 Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution.

## Remote Testimony

My name is Jill Klinger and I live in Grand Junction. I am speaking in support of bill HB 19-1261.

I am currently studying Business at Colorado Mesa University, but I was born and raised on the Front Range. Over the years I've become more and more grateful to live here. Every resident of Colorado enjoys the clean air and water, and bountiful recreation opportunities available to them, and I'm no different. Here on the Western Slope, I enjoy rock climbing, trail running, and the occasional trip down the Colorado River.

That's a big part of why I support HB 19-1261. I want to protect the land that my friends and I recreate on and breathe clean air while walking around my campus. Additionally, I want to live in a state whose values align with my own. I am a student leader of Sustainability Council here at CMU, so sustainability is a big part of my personal and professional life. Environmental concerns are at the top of my political priority list because I know how deeply the health of the environment affects the health of everything else. Sustainability council helps me affect change that aligns with my values on a local level. This testimony is a way that I can affect sustainable change on a bigger scale to create a cleaner world that will last my lifetime and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today. I urge all members of the House Energy and Environment Committee to vote 'yes' on HB 19-1261.

My name is Meghan Cline and I am currently living in Grand Junction, Colorado. I am an environmental student at Colorado Mesa University and the President of the schools sustainability council, with hopes of a successful future in the environmental field protecting the things that make Colorado unique; pristine air quality, clean water, and immense public lands. I am here in support of HB 19-1261. Reducing carbon pollution in the state of Colorado is an important step in recognizing the serious danger we are in. Denial to climate change is an extremely toxic statement to my future. As an avid outdoorswoman I have based my career, health, and hobbies outside. Not only does pollution from carbon emissions hurt my health but it is putting my hobbies such as skiing and rafting at stake; which is a huge economic driver for the state of Colorado. I encourage you and your colleagues to support HB 19-1261 to provide environmental security to my peers and I's future.

Mary George

April 17, 2019

Owner, Edesia Community Kitchen

395 Clark Ave, Paonia, Colorado 81428

To: Colorado Legislature,

I would like to express my support for HB19-1261. I think we are at a critical juncture here in Colorado and have a duty to consider environmental impacts of carbon on future generations.

I have a small community kitchen in Paonia Colorado on the Western Slope. Our community relies on clean water and air to continue our economic success in agriculture and the creative industries. As we are no longer relying on our traditional economic base of coal mining, it is important for us to support these new streams of income for our future. We are looking towards our orchards, wineries, arts organizations and local food culture to keep us moving into a healthy future.

I ask for your support on this important bill.

Mary George

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary George". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Edesia Community Kitchen

maryelizabethgeorge@hotmail.com

Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

My name is Scott Washkowiak, and I co-own Field to Fork Farm in Palisade with my wife. I am speaking before you today to ask you to support HB 19-1261.

I am a very passionate Organic farmer and I grow organic soil. Soil is my medium to produce vegetables and fruit that feed thousands of people weekly in Colorado. I am no stranger to all types of farming. I grew up on large scale corn and soy bean farms in Illinois, but I always struggled with the conventional farming practice that seemed so hard and taxing on natural resources and the families who ran these large farming operations.

I started farming smaller for big change, and sometimes my fellow farmers look at me and think I'm crazy to grow organic vegetables in permanent beds that never see a tractor. However, I feel strongly that adopting more sustainable practices is critical in ensuring the future of agriculture. As an Organic farmer, I am doing my part to lessen our farm's impact on the environment by planting wind blocks, planting cover crops, and using very little diesel or gasoline to produce over 200,000 pounds of organic produce annually. Doing things like covering the soil through cover crops will help sequester carbon, and decrease petroleum-based farming, which helps to lower carbon emissions produced on the farm. As an additional bonus, cover crops can be edible and help with overall fertility issues in the soil.

While we do our part to keep our carbon emissions low through our farming practices, I know that change is needed on a much bigger scale, which is why I am heartened to see a climate action plan for our state like HB 19-1261. It's imperative that we take steps to reduce our carbon pollution in this state for the future of small Organic farmers like myself. Farming is always subject to the whims of weather, but the increasing severity of extreme weather patterns and drought caused by climate change, has made this profession all the more tenuous. Last summer, in many parts of the state, farmers had their irrigation water shut off early in the summer, which impacted the overall growing season.

As I stated before, I am passionate about what I do, and have enjoyed sharing my love for this kind of farming with my wife and kids. I hope that my kids can enjoy a future where we can continue to have organic farms like the one they grew up on. As farmers of all types we must adjust, adapt and implement strategies that could help build soil and save soil, provide clean air, and reduce carbon emissions to mitigate our impact on climate change. This will not be easy for farmers. We need help from our lawmakers to ensure that others are doing their part as well.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today. I urge all members of the House Energy and Environment Committee to vote 'yes' on HB 19-1261.

Scott Washkowiak  
Palisade, CO

Members of the State Affairs Committee,

First, let me thank you for your time today. I am writing to ask each of you to step up to pass bill HB 19-1261.

My husband and I moved to Paonia two years ago as youngish retirees from our demanding careers in Chicago. We came to Colorado to regain our sense of space and beauty in the beautiful mountains and high desert of Delta County. We have found we made the right decision, and are happier and healthier every day we live in Colorado.

Now that we know what is possible here in Delta County, we want to keep it great for all the children and grandchildren of the world, and believe that HB 19-1261's goals to reduce carbon pollution by at least 26 percent by 2025, 50 percent by 2030, and 90 percent by 2050 are not just reasonable, but essential to stop catastrophic climate change. As environmental leaders in the West, Colorado must be the model for other states to envy and copy.

You will be a part of this legacy of positive influence. Please do your darndest to help this bill make it into law. I am grateful for your most energetic efforts. Mick and I may not personally make it to see 90% reduction in 2050, but we are confident that people like you and others can make this happen for those who are still lucky to live in this beautiful region!

Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony today. Please vote yes on HB 1261.

Sincerely,  
Betsy and Mick Johnson  
1010 3rd Street  
Paonia, CO 81428

Good afternoon, distinguished members for the Senate State Affairs Committee.

My name is Chris Campbell and I am a solar energy project manager and designer with Atlasta Solar Center in Grand Junction. Atlasta Solar Center has been in operation in Western Colorado since 1979, celebrating 40 years of enthusiastic clean energy business this year.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

You may wonder why a solar energy company is testifying in favor of HB19-1261. For 40 years Atlasta Solar Center has been committed to providing residents and business owners in Western Colorado with renewable, efficient and affordable alternatives for heating and energy. In 1979 Atlasta Solar Center began selling and installing solar thermal systems for domestic hot water allowing customers a cheaper and energy efficient solution than traditional boilers and hot water heaters. In fact, these solar thermal systems that Atlasta Solar Center installed decades ago are still operational and providing the same benefits - decades later. Solar thermal for heating the entire home as well as solar electric to power the home soon followed. Now 40 years later, as our state and nation look for cleaner, cheaper and easier solutions for energy and transportation Atlasta Solar Center is beginning to offer used electric vehicles to our customers with charging and electrification solutions.

HB19-1261 is extremely important to all Coloradans, tourists and ultimately the future of our state. Passing this bill is vital to the future of our state. I believe that many Coloradans agree that a cleaner Colorado is a better Colorado. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions within our state further protects the land and activities that make Colorado unique and attracts residents, businesses and tourists from around the world. Cleaner air in Colorado is important for all Colorado residents - especially families and children.

I am committed to doing whatever I can personally and professionally to help all Coloradans realize a cleaner Colorado to ensure a sustainable future for myself, my family - especially my soon to be three-year old daughter.

## GVSU Testimony

Our world as we know it is facing a crisis. We have been given an eleven year deadline before climate catastrophe ensues and we must act to prevent this threat to life as we know it. As students, we still have approx 70-75 years left on this earth, and if action is not taken to save our planet we will face the direct impacts of our lack of action. We will be forced to suffer the consequences. The droughts, the lack of food, the low quality air, rising sea levels, increase of wildfires, low water supply, and so much more will directly impact our lives.

We have the opportunity to take action and lead the initiative against climate change through House Bill 1261. Colorado has the opportunity to set an example for how other states within the US can take action to protect our planet and our future generations. This bill would set up an outlined plan in which Colorado can reduce our carbon emissions by 90% by the year 2050. As Coloradans, we all can relate to enjoyment of the outdoors. No matter what recreational activity we participate in to take advantage of our states beautiful scenery, we are a part of an outdoor centered state. Climate change poses an irreversible threat to our state's livelihood and recreational activities. If not prevented, climate change will destroy our environment. In turn, this will destroy local economies based upon tourism as well as rid Coloradans of the outdoor activities we have grown to appreciate.

We need this. And it is important to understand that this issue doesn't only have to be combated at a national level, we can take it upon ourselves as a state to do our part in protecting our plant and future generations from climate disaster. As students, we urge you to pass this bill out of committee, we have a future waiting for us and we ask you to do your part to ensure it is a future with food, water, and a livable environment.

Thank you,

Johneth Price, on behalf of the members of Grand Valley Students United

Grand Junction, CO

Hello my name is Jeffrey Turre, I am a Mesa County resident. I am 29 years old, I serve patients at a small medical clinic in Grand Junction. Here at the remote site, every person under 30 is for this legislation. We will be impacted longest by the decisions made about climate change. Many of us also have had to leave before testifying because of work and family schedules.

I am for HB 1261. I believe this is the great unifying issue of our time and in good conscience we must do all we can to reduce our negative impact on the environment.

I think this is a win win situation in a variety of ways.

First, we know that **climate change disproportionately impacts community members of color and lower economic class**. At the sites where pollution is generated people are disproportionately effected. And people are disproportionately impacted by changing temperatures. When it comes to air quality, one of our best markers is asthma rates. This is one of the canaries in the coal mine for understanding which communities are most impacted by pollutants. Homes that are near highways, energy and industrial plants, low lying areas, in other words, places with low property values, on average have higher asthma rates. Work that can be done to rectify our impact on the climate also acts in good conscience with these serious social concerns.

Also, renewable energy sources are localized in a way that nonrenewable energy are not. Here in Mesa County we have seen first hand the boom and bust economy from energy production that moves location when an area becomes less profitable. This is far less likely with renewables like wind and solar.

Finally, working in the non-renewable sector carries far less of a toxic load for workers. I have worked as a mechanic and know first hand the effects of petrochemical byproducts. Workers in renewable energy have decreased exposure to harmful chemicals as opposed to workers in non-renewables. Western slope communities have been vital in energy production in this state. Unfortunately, until this point that has meant working industries that have known health effects. Coal, oil and gas, and uranium extraction have come at a cost to the health of our citizens.

Renewable energy is stable, local, and less impactful on the health of industry workers in our community. Beyond that, we simply need to see the writing on the wall. This is the great issue of our time, it may not feel as urgent as one of the world wars, but this will impact all of us, less privileged people are feeling the brunt of it already. Let's make Colorado part of this team effort.

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My name is Susana Hernansanz Lopez. I live in the town of Superior, in Boulder county. I'm speaking in support of HB19-1261.

HB19-1261, the Climate Action Plan, is a necessary measure for Colorado to step up in the fight against climate change and the pernicious effects our planet's warming will have for Colorado, our country, and our planet as a whole. Bold action is needed to prevent the catastrophic effects of our planet warming by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

HB19-1261 rightly acknowledges that global warming must be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We can't be spectators, and wait for the federal government to do something, if Colorado takes the lead, others will follow, in the US and abroad. The report released last October by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that planetary warming must not exceed 1.5 degrees C over the next 20 years. A half degree higher than that could be disastrous.

HB19-1261 calls for Colorado to exercise "a leadership role" on climate, which would "position its economy, technology centers, financial institutions, and businesses to benefit from national and international efforts to reduce greenhouse gases."

I have two sons, 7 and 4 years old respectively. My oldest son is always concerned about whether our driving or taking planes is contributing to "pollution" as he calls it, and he is already, with his young engineering mind, drafting plans for a self sustaining electric car that would pollute exactly zero percent as he puts it. While it is great to see that the new generations get it, that they understand the problem we're facing and the need for solutions, it may be too late by the time my son reaches adulthood. We are not talking about the far distant future here, we are talking about a 20 year time frame, or less. There's not a lot of time left to take action, which is why this bill is timely, pertinent, and urgent.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify. Our children and future generations will thank us for doing our part to preserve a livable planet and climate.

Susana Hernansanz Lopez  
435 Andrew Way  
Superior CO 80027

Hello Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Renee Larrarte, on behalf of the Women's Lobby of Colorado, of which I am Vice Chair of the board of directors. Women's Lobby of Colorado is an organization that has been representing women's equity and rights, and policies they and their families need, at the Colorado capitol, for 25 years.

We are here today to testify in support of House Bill 19-1261, Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution. This bill would create a framework to tackle climate change by setting strong goals in place to reduce carbon pollution, the underlying cause of climate change. Implementing climate policy that allows our state to do its part to reduce harmful carbon pollution is critical to protecting our Colorado way of life. Coloradans are already seeing the negative impacts of climate change every day. We have a moral responsibility to reduce carbon pollution and leave a livable healthy Colorado our kids and grandkids, but climate change and air pollution are putting that at risk. This policy will dramatically reduce the carbon, mercury, and sulfur dioxide pollution that comes from burning dirty fuels like coal. This in turn will reduce asthma, heart disease, lung disease, and even cancer - especially for children and seniors.

This legislation would also greatly reduce these risks for communities of color and low income communities that we know are comprised of women, children, older women, and single mothers, which are some of the most vulnerable populations of climate change. Women make up two thirds of the most impacted by climate change due to overrepresentation in the lower economic strata worldwide.

So on behalf of the Women's Lobby of Colorado we urge you to pass this legislation and prioritize the health of Colorado women, families, and all Coloradans. Thank you.

Ian Thomas

Remote Testimony for HB 19- 1261

4/4/19

When you think of Colorado, what is the first image that comes to mind? Is it soaring, jagged peaks coated with snow? Or is it fields of wildflowers being grazed upon by a herd of elk? Whatever image you conjure up, in all likelihood, it is directly affected by our rapidly shifting climate. I love this state more than anything. I've grown up skiing in Summit County, spent summers wandering through the Wet Mountains, and with each passing day learn to love it more.

However, things are changing. Despite a few great seasons, our snowpack is struggling, and every area effected by snow is struggling as well. Our natural resources and unique beauty are indelible to our State, and without them we would simply be known as "That Square State".

Please vote Yes on HB 19– 1261, our State will thank you for it.

Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

My name is Katie Hedley and I live in Crawford, Colorado. I am sharing my testimony today to ask you to support HB 19-1261.

I am 32 years old and have been farming and landscaping in Colorado for over 10 years. Currently, my husband and I own and operate a large-scale compost business. In addition to producing and distributing compost throughout western Colorado, we also breed and raise Kune Kune pigs, a heritage grazing breed. The vision at our farm is to build an incredibly nutritious compost using high quality, locally-sourced ingredients. The finished product goes to farms, home gardens, schools, ranches, landscapers and nurseries. We help our communities feed their families, educate their children, and bring beauty to their homes. Our farm is the source of our livelihoods. It allows us to pay our mortgage, our student loans and even for the occasional date night. We raise animals on organic pastures, fresh water and organic seasonal fruit. Our lives are built upon a flourishing biota- one that has what it needs to make it through each season of the year. Last summer, the hundreds of acres of pasture and farmland in our area received TEN days of irrigation water. TEN DAYS.

We've pushed the environmental envelope for too long. This is a time where Colorado can be a leader in innovation and commitment to caring for their communities. HB 19-1261 offers legislators to opportunity to create a present and long-term plan to reduce carbon pollution, and thus protecting our land and people. Each year, the challenges of farming in the progressively harsher climate in Colorado become more apparent. Our businesses are dependent upon the decisions you are making today. Here is a chance to protect our public health, support good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced, and invest in renewable resources. It's hard to imagine another summer like 2018. Now is the time to develop a plan that supports our land and our livelihoods. As a young farmer who hopes to leave our bountiful home and business to our children one day, I'm asking that our legislators make the wisest choice for us all.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony today. I urge all members of the House Energy and Environment Committee to vote 'yes' on HB 19-1261.

Dear Senate public affairs committee,

Please support HB 19-1261: Climate Action plan to reduce pollution. You should support this bill because this will help create a gateway to new and sustainable ways and technology to save the earth and the human beings on it. This bill will help millions of people. It will improve our air quality, public health and especially in communities that are most impacted by climate change. Please think about the future and the health of our children. Children are our future and we should not leave the world a mess for them to clean up. Imagine a world where everyone is happy because they can breathe clean air and not have asthma due to air pollution. If you support this bill that could be possible.

Sincerely,  
Dominique Lemus a MSU Denver student

Dear Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,

I think the bill HB19-1261 is important because it will help end pollution in many ways. As we learned in class, we see what this law is looking forward to achieving, like creating a framework in order to reduce pollution by most likely 25% by 2026 and going up by at least 90% by 2050 which I desire to happen. I'd like you to put more work on this and help the world be a better place for everyone. Please vote for HB19-1261. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jose Rabelo

Dear Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,

This bill, HB-1261, will help our environment a lot because there is a lot of pollution at this moment. Pollution will get worse through the years. There are many industries that cause pollution, and cars as well. We need to work to fix this and this bill will help make that happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alexis V.

Dear Senate Committee,

This bill, HB-1261, is important because it will help environments that are polluted. Getting this approved will help make a difference. Environments will be a lot cleaner and safer for kids in their parks if this will do a good cause and not have polluted air. At our school we created a recycling program to help reduce pollution, and if students are doing more than adults to help communities, it looks wrong from their part. Please vote for our future, thank you.

Sincerely,

Adrian Vasquez

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

HB-1261 will help our environment more when it becomes a law. I believe that if it becomes a law then the pollution will decrease by a lot. For example, in 2026 pollution will decrease by 25%, in 2030 it will be 50%, and in 2050 it will decrease by 90%. This bill will help the air and people because the air can be toxic and increase disease. If the pollution decreases, then it will be easier to predict the weather.

I'm impressed how high schoolers are helping the environment and support the bill, then there is no reason why people in government and industry can't do it too. If people support this bill, then we will see a massive change in the country. Less disease will happen, and more animals can live. If we don't stop pollution, then people from vulnerable cities will leave to another place due to sea levels rising and it will overcrowd other states. Please vote for this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anthony A.

Dear Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,

Bill HB-1261 is important to me because I want to be able to breath fresh air or at least less polluted air. This bill will help that by ensuring air quality control and tackles climate change by providing opportunity for public input. When this bill passes, by 2026 there would be a 25% decrease of pollution, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050. That's really important and will help keep me healthy. I hope you consider this bill to pass because it will help impact many people. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Valerie Aleman

Dear Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,

I'm a student currently enrolled at The New America School. I am a part of their 2019 graduating class. My classmates and I strongly believe in environmental reform, with HB19-1261: Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution bill. The passing of this bill would bring my peers and I such joy. The effects that climate change has on the world and local communities is surreal. It affects our air, water, and living quality. Higher class communities are not feeling the effects of what's currently going on in our homes. Sooner or later they will. What then? Children's health is at stake and if nothing is being done the kids of the kids will suffer similar or worse conditions. It's a vicious cycle that can be stopped with your help. There is only so much I can do, the power lays in your hands. Please fight for our future by voting in favor of HB-1261. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Litzy Escarcega