

Senate Finance

04/29/2025 02:00 PM

HB25-1268 Utility On-Bill Repayment Program Financing

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kasey Butcher Santana For themselves	<p>Dear Chair Kipp, Vice Chair Marchman, and Senators Frizell, Mullica, Gonzales, Simpson, Kolker, Snyder, and Bright,</p> <p>I am writing to ask that you vote in favor of Utility On-Bill Repayment Program Financing. When my family had solar panels put on our home, it was a big investment. We felt fortunate that we could front the considerable cost to reap the rewards of dramatically lower utility bills. We also feel increased well-being knowing that our home utilities are almost entirely solar-powered, thanks to all those sunny days we have here in Colorado. Being able to quickly ramp up the number of homes with rooftop solar would help us meet our state goals for renewable energy while also cutting our reliance on fossil fuel sources that hurt our air quality and our future. This bill helps clear a hurdle that stops or slows many from moving forward on these upgrades. The cost of solar panels is often offset by the savings in energy costs. Enabling people to finance their solar upgrades on their utility bills helps put all those benefits in the hands of more people, for the betterment of our whole community. Please vote yes on this bill to help us meet our clean energy goals.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kasey Butcher Santana</p>
Sara Lohndorf For themselves	<p>All Coloradans should be able to access energy efficiency and electrification upgrades to save money, make our homes safer and healthier, and reduce pollution. On-bill programs allow utility customers to finance the purchase and installation of qualified upgrades. For many people, the upfront costs of appliances like heat pumps are a major barrier to achieving the energy cost savings and health benefits that these upgrades can provide.</p> <p>OB allows utility customers to make building efficiency and equipment upgrades at low-to-no upfront cost. Just like paying over time for a phone on a cell phone plan, OB lets customers pay for home upgrades through their utility bill, making upgrades affordable and accessible. In many cases, the energy savings from these improvements can outweigh the monthly payment, leading to lower overall bills. Unlike traditional loans, OB ties financing to the property's utility bill and not to any individual's credit.</p>



Unclaimed Property Trust Fund

As the state's custodian of unclaimed property, the Colorado Department of the Treasury holds lost assets in the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund (UPTF), **currently valued over \$2 billion**. Coloradans hold the right to reclaim these personal funds at any time through the **Great Colorado Payback**.

Since the program's founding, the Great Colorado Payback has returned more than **\$765 million** to owners and their heirs, including **\$62 million in Fiscal Year 23-24**. Thanks to recent efficiencies, the Division is returning claims faster than ever.

Protecting the People's Money

UPTF dollars are not state revenue; they are private funds that must be protected and returned to rightful owners. Borrowing UPTF funds for non-trust activities may violate the Fifth Amendment, which prohibits the government from seizing private property without just compensation.

The legislature is already **obligated to pay back \$662 million** to the UPTF from transfers beginning in FY 05 with the CoverColorado program. Since FY 13-14 alone, the fund is owed \$385 million. Any further diversion of these funds could jeopardize the Department's ability to meet its statutory obligations.

UPTF Transfers Since FY 05	Amount
Transfer to General Fund (SB 09-279)	\$50 million
Transfer to General Fund (SB 09-279)	\$30 million
Transfers from CoverColorado (HB13-1245)	\$182 million
Transfers to Colorado Health Benefit Exchange (HB 13-1245)	\$15 million
Transfer to Adult Dental Fund (SB 13-242)	\$269 million
Transfer to Adult Dental Fund (HB 16-1409)	\$35 million
Transfer to General Fund (HB 16-1409)	\$8 million
Transfer to General Fund (SB 19-261)	\$30 million
Transfer to General Fund (HB 20-1381)	\$43 million



Dear Chair Kipp and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Sara Kuntzler and I am the Colorado State Director for [Mountain Mamas](#), a nonprofit dedicated to protecting our air, water, climate and public lands for future generations. I am submitting written testimony today to support HB25-1268, the On-Bill Repayment Program.

As a mother, there is nothing more important than protecting my children. That includes ensuring a safe, healthy, and sustainable future for them. That feels less and less possible, particularly in the face of federal environmental protection rollbacks. That's why it's more critical than ever that we take action at the state level to make up for our federal government's failings.

I know you agree that climate change is the greatest challenge facing the next generation, and in Colorado, air pollution is a critical threat to their health and well-being. The simple truth is that despite our best intentions, many of us, especially low-to-moderate income families, face significant barriers when it comes to making the energy-efficient upgrades that could protect both our health and the environment. Programs like the On-Bill Repayment Program provide a direct solution to that problem.

By removing the upfront cost barrier, the On-Bill Repayment Program allows families to finance essential energy efficiency upgrades, like heat pumps, insulation, and electrification measures, through their utility bill. For households that struggle to afford the high initial costs of such upgrades, this is a game-changer. It opens the door to energy savings that not only help families reduce their utility bills but also reduce harmful emissions that contribute to climate change and poor air quality.

Mountain Mamas is particularly excited about the potential for this bill to make our homes healthier. Many families are living in homes with poor air quality, which can lead to respiratory issues, especially for children. Heat pumps and better insulation can reduce the need for fossil-fuel-based heating and cooling, cutting down on both indoor and outdoor air pollution. These upgrades don't just lower bills—they directly improve the health and safety of our children.

This bill is also essential for making sure that underserved communities, who are often the most impacted by environmental hazards, can access these benefits. With this program, we can ensure that no one is left behind in our pursuit of a healthier, more sustainable future.

In closing, I urge you to support HB25-1268. It is an investment in both the immediate well-being of Colorado families and the long-term health of our planet. By making energy efficiency upgrades accessible and affordable, we are giving our children a cleaner, healthier future. Thank you for your time and your commitment to a brighter tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Sara Kuntzler
Colorado State Director
Mountain Mamas