



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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Senate Transportation Committee
Chair: Senator Randy Baumgardner
SCR 352- Upon Adjournment

Good Evening Chairman Baumgardner and Committee Members,

Currently, a person is required to use certain traction control equipment when the Colorado Department of Transportation restricts road use due to a winter storm. HB16-1039 broadens this law to require the traction equipment to be carried and used on Interstate-70 between Dotsero and Morrison when icy or snow-packed conditions are present.

The closure of I-70 due to traffic incidents caused by improperly equipped drivers causes millions of dollars in lost productivity and commerce along the I-70 corridor. Many West Slope communities rely on I-70 to remain open even in times of poor weather and adverse conditions to serve the needs of their communities and guests. A similar problem existed for commercial vehicles prior to 2009, and since strengthening requirements for traction equipment, closures caused by commercial vehicles have decreased significantly.

Under current statute is confusing for passenger vehicle drivers, creating dangerous conditions for other drivers, for law enforcement officers, and emergency responders. Many in-state and out-of-state drivers do not realize that under current law, when a code 15 is called by CDOT, those passenger drivers are subject citations and fines if they cause an accident or cause the closure of the interstate. HB16-1039 strengthens current requirements and brings more public awareness to the need to be adequately prepared for Colorado's most travelled mountain pass.

Unless passenger vehicles are required by law, to have traction control devices when driving the I-70 corridor, the state will continue to see lost productivity, an increased burden on CDOT, and public safety at risk. It is for these reasons that we respectfully request your vote in favor of HB16-1039.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christian Reece
Executive Director
CLUB 20