

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

04/22/2025 01:30 PM

SB25-182 Embodied Carbon Reduction

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Todd Ohlheiser For Colorado Ready Mixed Concrete Association</p>	<p>Testimony in Support of SB25-182</p> <p>Hello Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Todd Ohlheiser, speaking on behalf of the Colorado Ready Mixed Concrete Association (CRMCA) to express our support for SB 182.</p> <p>CRMCA represents Colorado’s ready mixed concrete industry, which plays a vital role in building the infrastructure and communities that support our state’s economy and employs thousands of Coloradans. We recognize the importance of reducing carbon emissions and are committed to being part of the solution. While our industry has made impressive reductions in our carbon footprint, we continue to innovate, investing in new technologies, materials, and practices that lower the carbon footprint of concrete while maintaining the durability and resilience that make it essential for construction.</p> <p>SB-182 provides critical funding for incentives to support lower-carbon building materials, aligning with ongoing efforts within the concrete industry to advance sustainability. By investing in solutions that reduce emissions, this bill strengthens Colorado’s leadership in sustainable construction while ensuring that essential materials like ready mixed concrete remain part of a cleaner, more efficiently built environment.</p> <p>CRMCA is proud to support policies that promote responsible, forward-thinking solutions, and we look forward to collaborating with policymakers, industry partners, and stakeholders to drive meaningful progress. We urge your support of SB-182 and appreciate your leadership in advancing sustainable building practices for Colorado’s future.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>



SB25-182: Embodied Carbon Reduction testimony

4-22-25

Thank you, members of the committee. My name is Nikolaus Remus, and I represent the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects. I'm both a licensed architect and on staff with AIA Colorado. I apologize for not being able to appear at today's committee hearing for SB25-182, but I'd like to submit the testimony I would have given in support of this bill.

The AIA advocates for policies, programs, and incentives for energy efficient and resilient buildings. The AIA also provides support to our members nationwide to make net-zero carbon new buildings the norm by 2030. It's critical that the buildings we design take advantage of new opportunities to improve their performance and reduce embodied carbon levels where possible. AIA Colorado supports Senate Bill 182 to expand the state's existing C-PACE financing system to embodied carbon reduction projects. This expansion can help save existing buildings from being torn down and replaced or allow owners to choose materials that are better for the environment or sourced within Colorado.

While the average energy performance of new buildings is steadily improving, there are still systems and design decisions that require a higher upfront cost to realize overall savings over the life of the building. The same can be said for decisions that affect the longevity of a building itself or the occupant experience. On every building that architects design, we work with our clients to do the most we can within a client's budget and the reality is that there's always give and take during the process. Building owners upgrading or renovating existing buildings face the same challenges.

C-PACE financing is a great tool for building owners and developers who want to invest in their building long term, whatever the circumstances for making a qualifying improvement. Resilient buildings that can adapt and improve over time are also much better for the environment than new construction from an embodied carbon standpoint. We are happy to see this bill expand the program that can help the built environment positively support local communities and Colorado's air quality.

I ask the committee to vote in favor of Senate Bill 182.

Nikolaus Remus, AIA
AIA Colorado
303-228-3914
nikolaus@aiacolorado.org

*<https://architecture2030.org/why-the-building-sector/>



4 CORNERS
CARBON COALITION

April 22, 2025,

Honorable Representative Meg Froelich

House Committee on Transportation,
Housing & Local Government
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax Ave, Room 346
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for SB25-182 (Embodied Carbon Reduction)

Thank you Chair Froelich, Vice Chair Stewart and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to speak today in strong support of SB25-182. My name is Chris Neidl, and I am the founding director of the 4 Corners Carbon Coalition. We are a network of local governments located throughout the Mountain West, including founding member Boulder County, that are dedicated to accelerating innovative decarbonization solutions that can be advanced through local leadership and resources.

Since 4 Corners' founding in 2022, supporting new emissions reduction approaches that can be realized and scaled in the built environment, and those involving concrete specifically, has been an important focus of our mission and work. There are two reasons for this. First, concrete is the most widely used material in construction, and its emissions footprint is significant. Second, opportunities for high impact transformation in this area that can be locally implemented are considerable. And Colorado, both at the state and local level, is already setting a high bar for this important area of policy and private sector action.

But Colorado has more at stake in this than emissions reductions. The state is already home to an impressive number of startups and research initiatives that are accelerating progress in building materials decarbonization. Our in-state established concrete and cement industry companies are among the most innovation-oriented and climate aligned in the country, as evidenced by my witnesses today. A number of our coalition's recent grant awards illustrate what is happening here already in exciting ways. Boulder-based Travertine Technologies and Minus Materials, two young companies, are both working to manufacture novel, drop in cement replacements that are made with carbon that has been removed directly from the air - permanently storing CO2 in concrete, rather than releasing it. Our program also funded equipment for a Hempcrete building project in Durango, last year; as well as a feasibility study for the use of biochar as concrete aggregate, which holds the potential of driving concrete to net zero or even net-negative embodied carbon in the future.

This transformation can and is happening here in Colorado. But both established and emerging low carbon material providers need customers in order to ultimately matter. And as with all new areas of innovation, these early phases are challenging. Products new to market often face cost



4 CORNERS

CARBON COALITION

premiums, and the twin burdens of low awareness and inertia. We need to change that, by making it more economically attractive for the construction and real estate sectors to opt for low embodied carbon options.

And we believe SB 182 is a critical next step forward in this direction for Colorado. It builds on existing policies and commitments already in place, by expanding eligibility for existing tax credits and financing tools. And because these are tools that are already established and authorized, making this high impact move requires no new public resources to implement and administer.

With this first of its kind policy, Colorado has an opportunity to continue its leadership in this area, and help accelerate the state's transition to cleaner, more sustainable construction.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher Neidl
Executive Director
[4 Corners Carbon Coalition](#)
E: cneidl@gmail.com