

May 4, 2024

Written testimony before House Finance Committee

By Natasha Léger, Executive Director, Citizens for a Healthy Community

RE: SB24-229 CONCERNING MEASURES TO MITIGATE OZONE POLLUTION IN THE STATE.

CHC submits this written testimony in both an amend and opposed position to SB24-229. On its own this bill makes incremental improvements to the regulation of ozone emissions from oil and gas operators.

The industry constantly states that it seeks certainty with respect to the laws and regulations that impact the industry. Impacted citizens also seek certainty from the legislature and the regulatory agencies that this industry will stop harming the public health and safety of communities. This bill may provide industry with certainty that they can continue business as usual, but it does not provide communities with certainty that they will no longer be harmed by this industry. We recommend amendment to this bill to give certainty to communities.

We are also in an opposed position when looking at this bill within the context of a compromise deal struck between the Governor, certain industry players, and certain environmental groups that suspends legislative and ballot initiative efforts with respect to upstream oil and gas production, permitting, and siting for three years.

As a standalone bill, we urge amendment to SB24-229 to provide certainty to impacted citizens and communities.

As a component of a deal to stifle legislative or ballot efforts to better regulate the oil and gas industry, we urge you to vote no on SB24-229.