

April 24, 2024

Attention: Colorado Transportation and Energy Committee

Thank you, Senator Priola, and the Colorado Senate Transportation and Energy Committee for reviewing public comment in the committee hearing regarding the discussion of SB24-212.

I strongly oppose SB24-212. We appreciate the State's work in providing oversight for statewide utility, energy industries and infrastructure; the same industry standards set serve as guidelines within Washington County's Planning and Zoning regulations and permitting. While we utilize the state's guidance, we feel Senate Bill 24-212 demonstrates great legislative overreach. The urban-rural disconnect is very real and illustrated time and again. The populated Front Range of our state flexes its strong arm and dominates control over Colorado's path with various decisions made legislatively that affect ALL of us – rural and urban alike. It is very disheartening to know rural Coloradan leadership isn't even invited to the table for such decision making with long term effects.

The Washington County Planning and Zoning Committee has proactively tackled drafting sustainable, progressive, and environment-protecting regulations for the recent uptick in energy infrastructure development in our county. Our committee represents its constituents and very consciously and deliberately assesses every aspect of the regulations we draft to establish proper standards and review procedures to protect health, welfare, safety, and quality of life here. Our committee aims to allow for development while protecting agricultural resources and rural character. It is important when adopting regulations that land use falls under local control, which is best understood by local delegation. We deserve the right to guide orderly commercial and residential growth, preserve natural resources, and enhance the overall quality of life the County's citizens have come to know and treasure.

Thank you for your time,

Deanna Schrock

Washington County Planning and Zoning, Chairwoman

Washington County Landowner and Business Owner