

February 29, 2024

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Support SB24-037 Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management  
(Sens. Simpson / Bridges and Reps. Lynch / McCormick)**

To: Chair Roberts, Vice Chair Danielson and Members of the Committee

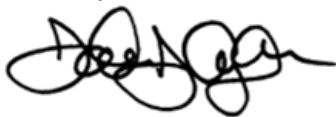
Western Resource Advocates (WRA) works to protect the West's land, air, and water. For more than 30 years WRA has worked alongside non-profit allies in partnership with Colorado state legislators, regulators, agencies, and the Governor's office to help craft smart policy solutions to address climate change. We support policies that help drive down greenhouse gas emissions, improve our air quality, restore the health of our river systems, protect our wildlife and drinking water, and support the communities and agricultural and recreational economies on which our state relies.

I am writing to you today on WRA's behalf to express our strong support for SB 24-037. This bill directs the State, in collaboration with the University of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, to explore nature-based watershed-scale water quality management solutions as an alternative to traditional more costly and energy intensive "gray" solutions. The bill does this by requiring a feasibility study be conducted, establishing pilot projects, providing support for local communities and project developers, and submitting a progress report to the Water Resources and Agricultural Review Committee.

This forward-thinking bill benefits all communities across Colorado - town or city, urban and rural, plains and mountains. Recent studies conclusively demonstrate the many benefits healthy green river infrastructure brings our state, such as improved quality of our water, decreased sedimentation in our reservoirs, reduced vulnerability to forest fires in our communities, and increased resiliency of our water supply. Projects such as those supported by this bill that harness the power of existing environmental processes benefit not only our rivers but our people, our communities and all living things in our great state.

We are grateful to Senator Simpson and Senator Bridges and to the House sponsors for bringing this bill forward, and we urge an "aye" vote on SB 24-037.

Sincerely,



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