

Testimony in Support of SB24-166

I write to you in support of SB24-166 as a Family Medicine doctor who has worked with disproportionately impacted community (DIC) members in Colorado for 26 years. Moreover I have additional expertise in public health issues and am deeply concerned for the health of my children and grandchildren.

This important legislation addresses a root cause of the noxious persistence of Front Range air pollution for the past decade - the fact that Colorado's Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) has not sufficiently enforced existing air quality laws to make a difference in the levels of ozone and toxic air particles. This bill directs the APCD to prioritize "repeat violators," which are defined as polluters who violates APCD regulations 5 times over three years, by requiring active steps to reduce emissions and pay mandatory fines. The bill increases transparency of certain APCD enforcement information and allows the right of the public to enforce APCD's regulations if the APCD fails to do so.

These may seem like drastic measures, but for some repeat violators like SunCor, this may be the only way to have an effect. In a recent EPA report on Environmental Justice in North Denver, the frequency of air pollution incidents at the Suncor Refinery, comparing upsets, malfunctions and excess air emissions at Suncor were compared to incidents at the 11 other refineries. The analysis found that, from 2016-2020, Suncor had the greatest number of tail gas incidents that caused releases of excess sulfur dioxide. Suncor also had the second greatest number of acid gas incidents releasing hydrogen sulfide gas. (<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-commerce-city-north-denver>).

These incidents are associated with adverse health effects for the neighboring population. These health risks include premature death, low birth weight, asthma attacks, worsening allergies, lung infections, heart attacks and nerve damage. Throughout my career, I have treated many children and adults with breathing diseases and have seen firsthand the despair, anxiety and discomfort that this causes.

I urge you to support SB24-166. There is no time to lose. Currently Denver is the 8th most polluted city in the US, and the entire metro region suffers from severe ongoing ozone pollution.<https://www.iqair.com/us/usa/colorado>. Enforcement of the current air pollution regulations needs to be prioritized and this bill will bring hope that the seemingly intractable pollution will be controlled in the near future. The health of our families and our future are at stake.

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To: Senate Transportation & Energy Committee
From: The Alliance for Collective Action
Re: Testimony in Support SB24-166 – Air Quality Enforcement
Date: 3/20/2024

The Alliance for Collective Action is an environmental nonprofit working across sectors to build a more climate-resilient and equitable future. The majority of our over 400 members, which includes both organizations and individual citizens, live or operate in the Front Range of Colorado, and are negatively impacted by Colorado's frequent poor air quality. We wholeheartedly support the measures outlined in SB24-166 and commend the efforts of the 2023 Legislative Interim Committee on Ozone Air Quality in advancing these critical reforms.

The proposed legislation addresses the longstanding challenges of ozone nonattainment and inadequate enforcement of air quality laws in Colorado. For over a decade, much of the Front Range has struggled with ozone nonattainment, disproportionately impacting communities already burdened with toxic air pollution. The leniency shown towards repeat offenders by the APCD has only exacerbated this problem, allowing polluters to continually degrade air quality while evading any meaningful consequences.

Recent enforcement actions, exemplified by CDPHE's \$2.5 million settlement with the Suncor Oil Refinery, underscore the urgent need for stricter regulations and penalties. The discrepancy between the penalty imposed on Suncor, which accounts for only 0.04% of Suncor's net profit, highlights the inadequacy of current enforcement mechanisms. The current model allows companies to get away with polluting our air and water, who see fines and penalties as a "cost of doing business" in Colorado.

The provisions outlined in this bill represent significant steps towards holding polluters accountable and protecting affected communities. By creating a category of "repeat violator" and mandating fines for subsequent violations, SB24-166 moves industry away from a "pay-to-pollute" model and towards an enforcement system that actually discourages these violations. The bill also requires industrial and manufacturing sector repeat violators to actively reduce their emissions - a proactive measure to curb air pollution at its source.

Of particular importance is the empowerment of the public to enforce APCD regulations in cases where the agency fails to do so, providing communities with the tools to safeguard their own well-being. Additionally, the increase in maximum fines for violations of local air quality regulations and the requirements for APCD enforcement information to be disclosed to the public are crucial steps towards increasing liability and improving public awareness.

The bill's emphasis on transparency, accountability, and public participation aligns with our organization's mission to protect the environment and public health. We urge the legislature to pass this legislation and ensure its effective implementation. By strengthening enforcement measures and promoting transparency, we can mitigate the harmful impacts of air pollution on our communities and pave the way towards a cleaner, healthier future for all Coloradans.

Sincerely,

Jane Allen, Assistant Director of Climate & Energy Resilience
Jolie Brawner, Director, Coalition for a Regenerative Future
The Alliance for Collective Action

March 17,2024

Dear Transportation and Energy Committee Members,

Thank you for your time. I appreciate being able to explain some of the reasons SB24-166, the Air Quality and Improvement Bill, would help curtail violations of existing air quality measures. I hope that the testimony you hear and read that supports this legislation will lead you to a yes vote.

Passage of this bill would set higher standards for Colorado's Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) to hold corporate polluters accountable, particularly focusing on businesses that consistently disregard regulations. There are many examples throughout Colorado, but the Suncor Refinery is at the top of the list. Over the years, regulators have imposed fines, yet Suncor continues to compromise the health of people living in the Denver area, particularly those in Commerce City. For example, in February of this year, the APCD agreed to a \$2.5 million fine for Suncor's repeated violations over the course of two years while they could have imposed an allowed \$30 million fine.

The Colorado regional office of the EPA reported the results of a study in June 2023 that "Suncor logged more excess releases of sulphur dioxide-laden tail gas than any of 11 comparable refineries from 2016 to 2020." SB24-166 would require mandatory fines if Suncor and any repeat offender violates regulations, so the APCD would be beholden to stricter guidelines and less able to levy fines that are nominal to a company the size of Suncor and therefore insufficient to deter them, as their history of violations has shown. Knowing upfront that their liability will be impactful might change their attitude about what appears to be Suncor's lackadaisical approach to adhering to rules.

Another valuable aspect of SB24-166 is requiring offenders to redress malfunctioning systems in their facilities that pollute air and water. Again, concerning Suncor, The EPA reported in June 2023 that "Suncor may be experiencing more air quality incidents because of inadequacies in the preventative maintenance, testing, and inspection of liquid level control system and electrical equipment." Facilities similar to Suncor have fewer violations due to system failure of inadequate functioning. Suncor needs to follow suit. The fines need to be more expensive than the cost of adhering to the rules.

We can't allow a billion-dollar business to continue to devalue our air quality and health. Allowing Suncor to continue operating as it has been should be nonnegotiable.

Please vote yes for SB24-166.

Sincerely,

Lucy Pfeffer

Thank you for inviting the community into this important discussion.

My name is Ryan DeCrescent.

I'm a resident of CO, living in Boulder.

I'm a scientist at one of the many national labs here.

Today, I represent myself, my community, and the natural environment.

Please support SB24-166.

To me, this bill is about consistency.

I think it's important to carefully consider: **Why does CO require operators to hold permits in the first place?**

My take is that CO understands it needs to have some regulatory power, because **letting operators do whatever they want is unwise.**

The permits specify certain limits because we anticipate that **exceeding those values causes harm.**

Time, effort, and care were put into defining those permits.

And that *sounds* nice and good.

But these permits *do* get violated.

Those limits *do* get exceeded.

We know this. The records are publicly available.

As just one example:

I have a plot on my computer right now that I made from publicly available records showing that **Suncor has dozens of distinct emissions exceedances within the past year alone.**

Some events are at 10-100x the permit levels.

This amounts to **hundreds of hours operating above permit levels.**

And I see only minor consequences without well-defined protocols for penalizing this type of action.

What if your kids were getting an "F" grading for many years in a row, as Denver Metro areas has been for their air quality?

I imagine you'd intervene and make some rules.

SB24-166 makes this process systematic and tidy by making very clear definitions of "repeat violators" and by setting basic fine rates for those violators.

It removed guesswork and I anticipate that this will encourage operators to operate within permits more often, streamline the process of penalizing them if they don't, and will provide some comfort to the community.

Please support this bill.

Comments on SB24-166

Air Quality Enforcement

Concerning measures to increase the enforcement of violations that impact the environment.

My name is Scott Hudson, and I am a resident of Parker, Colorado. My family and I enjoy the outdoors and moved here sixteen years ago, because of the access to nature and the state's healthy environment. However, we are greatly concerned about the air pollution along the front range, and the state's seeming inability to get the issue under control. Therefore, we fully support SB24-166 as a step forward in addressing the problem.

As a former prosecutor for the 18th Judicial District in Colorado, I believe strong enforcement is a critical pillar of compliance. Past enforcement of air quality permit violations has not been adequate, especially against repeat violators. Therefore, I believe mandatory compliance orders for repeat violators, as provided in the bill, is important as both a deterrence and corrective action.

Additionally, the industrial and manufacturing sector are a special concern for me. The industrial and manufacturing sector operate in accordance with a permit, giving them permission to emit pollutants. Repeatedly violating this permit indicates not only a failure to comply with the requirements of the permit, but a failure of the company to analyze its non-compliance and institute effective corrective actions. Therefore, I fully support the additional requirements in SB24-166 to require root cause analysis for high-priority repeat violators.

However, in some cases, the failure to prosecute violations is not the result of a willingness to enforce requirements, but a lack of resources. Therefore, I think it is important that SB24-166 includes a citizen suit provision with the ability to recoup expenses. Citizen suit provisions have been very successful at the federal level. The notice provision allows state agencies to focus enforcement on the more important violators while allowing citizen groups to monitor permits in their local community.

My only criticism of SB24-166 is that the bill appears to be restricted to only air quality environmental violations. I believe that the provisions should be extended to water quality issues and hazardous waste compliance.

Finally, I believe that this is only a step to reducing our air pollution problem. The results of this bill will need to be reviewed every few years to determine if it is meeting its goal and if changes should be made. I am confident that Colorado can resolve its air pollution problem, but it will need to be a concerted, long-term effort. This bill is a positive step in that direction.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give public comment. I am Kelsey Barnholt, and I live in Erie, CO. Erie has over 360 active wells, 26 of which are freshly fracked since I moved into my house in 2020. To my dismay, additional wells are on the docket to be drilled & fracked in close proximity to Erie homes despite the supposed protections from SB19-181.

Living in a town that is disproportionately impacted by poor air quality largely in part to our over abundance of oil and gas wells, air quality legislation is very important to me and my family. Additionally, I have Primary Immunodeficiency which makes me more susceptible to cancers like lymphoma, the VOCs, methane, and NOx emitted from oil & gas wells as well as the high levels of ozone here in the Front Range increase my risk of future cancer. I also have asthma, which is the worst it's ever been since moving to Erie.

The Oil & Gas operators in the Front Range constantly have spills, but have NEVER been issued fines. We report odors and health symptoms, but all are swept under the rug. Spikes in VOCs can last just minutes, so it is hard to hold operators accountable for their emissions. In June 2022, EarthWorks captured massive emissions from a site just ½ mile from my home. Luckily, the operator shut-in the site while they made repairs, but they were never issued a fine for the poisons that we all ingested for however long that system was malfunctioning.

I have spent \$1600 on air purifiers to make the air in my home safer to breathe because the air around my home is filled with VOCs, methane, and ozone. VOCs are known to cause a whole host of issues from premature births and low birth weights to asthma and cancer. The air quality problem is dire in Erie, which is why the Town of Erie has had to invest over \$1 million to purchase air quality monitoring for the Town. In it's short 1.5-2 years since being installed, we have seen terrifying spikes in methane and BTEX.

SB24-166 will help make the air in the Front Range safer for us and our families by finally holding Operators accountable for the pollutants they put into our air. This would be a great step to making the Front Range safer for residents and showing that we value Health & Safety over profits.

For the sake of all the people living in the Front Range and in the state of Colorado in general, I urge you to vote Yes on SB24-166. Thank you for your consideration.

Senate Transportation & Energy

03/20/2024 01:30 PM

SB24-166 Air Quality Enforcement

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Megan Wilder For themselves	<p>Please pass these vitally important bills to improve Colorado's Air Quality:</p> <p>SB-165: Improve Air Quality SB-166: Strengthen Air Quality Enforcement HB-1330: Toughen Air Quality Permitting HB-1339: Improve Air Quality in Impacted Communities</p> <p>These carefully designed bills offer common sense solutions to Colorado's obviously worsening air quality problems. For too long lawmakers have relied on the "carrot" approach, hoping that incentives would be adequate. We know now that this will not work. It is time to get serious and pass regulations with real teeth that will quickly address the causes of air pollution and punish the industries that won't reform and continue to violate rules.</p> <p>It is not OK that nearly four million Coloradans live in "severe" non-attainment areas where ozone pollution causes heart and lung disease, premature death, childhood asthma, and scarring of healthy lung tissue. I urge you as savvy legislators: do not cave in to oil and gas companies and other polluting industries. Stand up to these entrenched interests. Your constituents are begging you to make the hard decisions required to protect the air we all breathe.</p>
Chris Hoffman For themselves	<p>I strongly support this bill. For too long lawmakers have relied on the "carrot" approach, hoping that incentives would be adequate. We know now that this will not work.</p> <p>It is time to get serious and pass regulations with real teeth that will quickly address the causes of air pollution and punish the industries that won't reform and continue to violate rules.</p>

	<p>It is not OK that nearly four million Coloradans live in "severe" non-attainment areas where ozone pollution causes heart and lung disease, premature death, childhood asthma, and scarring of healthy lung tissue. I urge you as savvy legislators: do not cave in to oil and gas companies and other polluting industries. Please stand up to these entrenched interests.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Kelly Hegarty Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members, As your constituent, I am asking you to VOTE NO on SB24-166. This is one of several bills introduced this legislative session that aims to ban our local oil and gas industry in Colorado and disregard the tireless work of Colorado regulators, stakeholders, and everyday residents over the past half-decade to produce this resource cleaner and safer than almost anywhere in the world. We need to support producing natural gas and oil right here in Colorado, where we already have the strongest oil and gas regulations in the country. Please support our local economy and oil and gas workers with a NO vote! Thank You - Kelly Hegarty</p>
<p>Molly Jacobs For themselves</p>	<p>I was quite surprised to learn that the rules in this bill weren't already in place to protect Coloradans from polluters. I would urge you to pass this bill so that oil companies are held accountable for the pollution they create.</p>
<p>Karen Artell For themselves</p>	<p>Hello Senate Transportation & Energy Committee Members, both Bills Sponsors and my Local Legislators</p> <p>Regarding SB24-165:</p> <p>I live in Fort Collins. The west Fort Collins ozone monitor has some of the highest ozone measurements in the ozone nonattainment area.</p> <p>According to the NCAR FRAPPE Study https://www2.acom.ucar.edu/frappe emissions and ozone precursors from oil and gas facilities in Weld County travel on prevailing winds to Fort Collins and up against the foothills and contributing to our high ozone days.</p> <p>Of particular importance to me:</p>

	<p>The ozone season is designated from May 1 ending on September 30 each year going forward and that oil and gas pre-production activity not be allowed within the ozone nonattainment area during the designated ozone season.</p> <p>The ECMC and the Division act to limit emissions of NOx from oil and gas operations in the ozone nonattainment area.</p> <p>Regarding SB24-166:</p> <p>The public has access to Colorado Air Quality Control Commission hearings and the ability to comment on proposed rulemakings but have little access to what happens after a regulation is adopted. We don't know how the regulated entities are held to account. Documents are difficult to search for on Colorado's Air Pollution Control Division website, though searching has improved with the newer APCD Map Portal and Records Search Tool. Not all documents are uploaded necessitating requests for records from staff members.</p> <p>The Division uses the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), which states, in part, that, "The custodian may deny the right of inspection of the following records, unless otherwise provided by law, on the ground that disclosure to the applicant would be contrary to the public interest: ...any records of ongoing civil or administrative investigations conducted by the state or an agency of the state in furtherance of their statutory authority to protect the public health, welfare, or safety unless the investigation focuses on a person or persons inside of the investigative agency."</p> <p>Surely the Division knows that non-compliance with clean air rules and regulations are contrary to the public interest, not the public's need to know about the air they breathe.</p> <p>The Division must provide more transparency for the public regarding operator noncompliance and enforcement of the Division's rules and regulations.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Kendra Lechtenberg For</p>	<p>I support Senate Bill 24-166 because Coloradoans deserve to be able to step outside and breathe clean air. It's that simple. I was born and raised in Fort Collins but moved away to California for many years for</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>my education. My dream was always to move back, but a major concern for my partner and I was the ozone problem and whether we would truly be able to enjoy the amazing outdoor opportunities here if the air quality made it unhealthy to do so. Two years after moving back to the Front Range, Colorado’s air quality remains a major concern for us, and is a significant cause of anxiety for my partner. We want to raise children here, and I don’t want to have to check the Air Quality Index every few hours to see if it’s safe to go on a bike ride, or a run, or to play in the backyard. I’ve been disappointed to see that Colorado is so far behind other states like California in regulating air polluting and enforcing air quality violations.</p> <p>That’s why I support the Air Quality Enforcement bill. Industries that cause pollution will make no effort to reduce their emissions unless they are required to disclose emissions and held accountable to a degree that will hurt their bottom line. If this doesn’t happen, pollution will only worsen and the quality of life in Colorado will decline. Don’t give polluters a free pass. Instead, protect the health of Colorado’s citizens and our state’s natural beauty – our two biggest assets – by passing SB24-166. Thank you.</p>
<p>Debra Bjork For themselves</p>	<p>Support SB24-166 Strengthen Air Quality Enforcement</p> <p>This bill, crafted to improve air quality, will NOT INCREASE financial penalties, but simply use penalties already allowed. It will limit the excessive discounts given on penalties for emissions violations. Currently it appears more cost-effective to pollute and later pay a small proportionate fine, then it is to stop the emissions violations. Our state agencies are inadvertently financially rewarding air pollution violations.</p> <p>My family is some of the 58% of Coloradans who live in the EPA-designated “severe” surface ozone nonattainment area. My five grandchildren, sons and spouses, and husband are eleven of the four million Coloradans who breathe this air every day. This surface ozone and other carcinogenic pollutants cause heart and lung disease, premature death, childhood asthma, and scarring of healthy lung tissue. It is as though we are forced to smoke a pack of cigarettes every day. This bill which will enforce already allowable fines for repeat offenders can improve our air quality.</p> <p>Larimer County where we live is the home of one of these repeat emission offenders. Numerous complaints were filed with CDPHE, multiple Earthworks Flir Camera filming of emissions’ leaks, hundreds of volunteer residents’ hours were spent pleading with local officials</p>

	<p>and communicating with state agencies. Leaking tanks were finally replaced, but purportedly replaced with used tanks, which also leaked. Additional advocacy and years were required to bring relief. And, currently, this company has applied to the ECMC for a variance to regulations.</p> <p>I urge you to support this bill, one of three, which came out of the hard work of the 12 legislators and numerous stakeholders from the 2023 Legislative Interim Committee on Ozone Air Quality.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates official definitions for repeat air quality law violators and mandates cuts to their emissions if more violations occur. • Makes it easier for state regulators and local governments to fine violators directly (avoiding court) and pursue bigger financial penalties. • Allows private citizens to sue polluters if state regulators fail to take adequate action.
<p>Laura Howard For themselves</p>	<p>I am a Registered Nurse of 35 years and currently serve the community of Colorado Springs and advocate for environmental health. I also advocate for the Colorado Council of Black Nurses Inc. to help remove barriers that can impact health disparities.</p> <p>As a constituent of Senator Exum and a concerned health care provider, I strongly urge your yes vote on Senate Bill 24-166.</p> <p>While my community is not yet in the official nonattainment area for ozone, we are right on the cusp of being included. Since 2019, Colorado Springs has exceeded the ozone threshold deemed safe for human health, set by the EPA. Additionally, El Paso County has received a failing grade from the American Lung Association for ozone pollution, putting over 737,867 El Paso residents at higher risk for adverse health outcomes.</p> <p>Over my many years in practice, I have noted the trends of increased visits due to respiratory or cardiovascular events on days of elevated poor air quality, especially among at-risk groups. We know the health impacts associated with exposure to ground-level ozone and ozone precursors - nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. Emissions from Colorado's biggest polluters are known to cause cancer, respiratory arrest, severe burns and pain, seizures, pulmonary</p>

	<p>edema, asthma complications, exacerbated diabetes and chronic lung disease. For those who are pregnant, this pollution has been linked to preterm births, low birth weights and in extreme cases, infant mortality.</p> <p>On poor air quality days, our hospital experiences increased visits from community members struggling to breathe from exacerbated asthma and increased cardiovascular events like heart attacks. This is not only costly to my patients, but also to our hospital and overall community.</p> <p>Colorado should do more to regulate air pollution that causes ground-level ozone by strengthening its enforcement of air permits so pollution doesn't continue to harm public health. Colorado has worked to advance cleaner air over the last several years, but frankly, for the patients I serve and millions of others across our state, we aren't moving far enough or fast enough to save lives.</p> <p>My patients deserve to breathe clean air. My neighbors in Colorado Springs deserve a chance at a long, healthful life free from air pollution. Coloradans can't get that on their own. They need policy makers to act to curb pollution and they need that action now.</p> <p>Please support Senate Bill 24-166 with your yes vote.</p>
<p>Karen Kalavity For themselves</p>	<p>People or companies that commit crimes ... and polluting the environment is a crime ...should not be allowed to get away with it, even once.</p> <p>They especially should not be able to get away with it over and over again.</p> <p>Please vote "yes" on Senate Bill 166.</p>
<p>Finn Jackson For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Finn Jackson. I urge the committee to vote YES on SB24-166.</p> <p>I'm a new resident of the Front Range but plan to live here for at least the foreseeable future, and in doing so, I wonder how air pollution here will affect me, my friends, my community, and surrounding</p>

	<p>communities. After all, if this problem isn't addressed now, it will be worse in the future. One way we can mitigate air pollution is by disincentivizing large polluters from polluting.</p> <p>The current enforcement system isn't working as well as it could. Large polluters can easily pay the fines and handle the penalties the APCD enforces. This bill would strengthen the enforcement capabilities of the APCD and the public themselves. Specifically, this bill raises maximum fines local governments can impose, creates a right for the public to enforce regulations if the APCD fails to do so, and requires detailed summary and public disclosure of enforcement information and emissions records. If this all sounds like too much, just remember - our communities are reaping negative, even deadly, consequences from excessive pollution. The least that can be done is that those communities be granted the power to defend themselves if their livelihoods are at stake.</p>
<p>Jeffrey Shaw Against Pueblo Economic Development Corp</p>	<p>Thank you Madam Chair and committee members. My name is Jeff Shaw. I am the president and CEO of the Pueblo Economic Development Corp. Our mission is to attract, retain and expand primary jobs. For the most part, primary jobs in Pueblo are manufacturing related as Pueblo has enjoyed more than a century of manufacturing. A large part of our manufacturing go into transportation and construction projects. examples being rail, cement, carbon brakes for planes and wind towers. Essentially Pueblo. Manufacturing has played a large part in what you do on a daily basis. We are here standing united with Evraz and our manufacturers who have serious concerns with SB166. It is getting more difficult to bring in primary job employers for a number of reason. One of which is the increased regulations with obtaining and complying with air permits. Don't get us wrong, air quality is important to Pueblo. Thus the reason we enjoy clean air and water in Pueblo. Good paying jobs are important Pueblo and we are concerned the effect SB 166 will have on our existing workforce and economic prosperity in Pueblo. Evraz's economic impact is over \$500 million annually. How do you replace this type of employer in Southern Colorado? The short answer is you can't. The effects SB166 would have on Pueblo and southern Colorado are long term and thus the reason we oppose SB166</p>
<p>Penn Richmann For themselves</p>	<p>Please pass SB24-166 on air quality enforcement. As a person living with Type 2 diabetes I do everything to minimize the impacts and cost of the disease: I have a healthy weight, I exercise, I eat a healthy diet, I see my doctor regularly and I take my daily medicine. But I</p>

	<p>cannot control ozone of which Colorado Front Range violates regularly and excessively each year. I can buy an air filtration system to remove particulate matter, but it cannot remove ozone and outdoor exercise is important in the management of my disease.</p> <p>I am not alone as a Type 2 diabetic in Colorado. According to the American Diabetes Association, "Approximately 311,554 people in Colorado, or 6.9% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes. An additional 117,000 people in Colorado are pre-diabetic... Diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated \$3.6 billion in Colorado each year." According "The effect of ambient ozone exposure on three types of diabetes: a meta-analysis" study published by the NIH in 2023 "Experimental evidence also indicated that ozone may cause damage to β cells [38], and exert insulin resistance, possibly due to oxidative stress and inflammatory responses [25]. These suggest that ozone exposure may lead to the appropriate type of diabetes in different populations."</p> <p>Please help me and nearly 500,000 other Coloradans manage our disease and avoid the worst implication and costs by enforcing air quality regulations. We cannot do it alone.</p>
<p>Adrienne Razavi For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Lawmakers,</p> <p>Please pass this vitally important bill to improve Colorado's Air Quality: SB166.</p> <p>It's clear every summer that our air quality is getting worse and worse, with just a quick look to the west: our iconic mountain range is totally obscured some days. And while the loss of the views are sad, the damage our air quality has on our health and the health of the ecology of our state is far worse. Living somewhat near SunCor Refinery, whose repeated air quality violations have made a laughingstock of the law and impacted the health of nearby community members, I have seen how necessary it is for us to tighten up our enforcement of air quality violators. The first step is to clearly define what air quality violations are, then provide useable mechanisms for state regulators, local governments, and even individuals to hold violators accountable for their actions. The lives of every Coloradoan who breathes air and would like it to be clean, not just those living in or near highly polluted communities, depends on it. Please do the right thing for us. Thank you.</p>

<p>Barbara Donachy For Physicians for Social Responsibility Colorado</p>	<p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>I'm writing on behalf of PSR (Physicians for Social Responsibility) Colorado. PSR Colorado is an organization of health professionals and allies that offers evidence-based education and advocacy to protect current and future generations from the health impacts of fossil fuel production and use, the climate crisis, and exposure to radionuclides and other toxic substances.</p> <p>HB24-166 brings a focus to repeat violators rather than those companies/industries that are making a fair effort to reduce their air pollution. Raising fines for repeat offenders, we hope and expect will reduce toxic air pollution in our most impacted communities.</p> <p>This bill includes increased penalties for all air toxic emission violations including nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds contributing to ozone pollution as well as sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, PM2.5, and a brew of other chemicals and exposures including radioactive particles. Each of these pollutants has its own harmful health impacts. Combined they may be even worse--public health toxicologist David Brown stated "One of the problems with trying to regulate based on a single compound is that the compounds that are present in the air enter the body and they do more than just add effects. For example, two irritants don't make it twice as irritating. It could make it 10 times as irritating".</p> <p>This bill will require the Air Pollution Control Division to significantly increase fines that have been historically lenient. It mirrors the real cost to our communities. The bill empowers local governments to impose fines if the APCD does not.</p> <p>It is a good faith effort to begin to acknowledge and perhaps mitigate environmental racism in those communities that bear the greatest costs.</p> <p>We support SB24-166 and believe it will help improve our air quality and the health of our residents.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
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	<p>Barbara Donachy, MPH PSR Colorado Board of Directors</p>
<p>Lynne Sullivan For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, and thank you for considering supporting SB24-166, Air Quality Enforcement.</p> <p>I work outside on a ranch and suffer from the dangerously high level of toxic pollutants in our air. Please support the measure to actually enforce violations against businesses that repeatedly pollute in excess of allowable levels. This will have immediate positive health impacts and send the signal that non-compliance will no longer be tolerated in these industries - helping clean up our air in the long run as well.</p> <p>(Making the fines that will be paid, "non-Tabor" revenues is a helpful component of this bill.)</p> <p>Thank you for being advocates for the health of your constituents, the people of Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lynne Sullivan</p>