



Colorado Chapter of Sierra Club

April 11th, 2024

Thank you, Madame Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Jeri Sampson and I am a member of the Legislative Committee for the Colorado Sierra Club. I am speaking not just for myself, but also representing the tens of thousands of members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Colorado. The Colorado Sierra Club is a powerful collective of grassroots constituents working together across the state to fight to advance climate solutions, and to protect our state lands, water, air, and wildlife. We are an organization that believes in the power of working together to make change happen.

The main reason I'm a member of the Sierra Club and that I'm here speaking to you today is because I'm a mother and grandmother of Colorado children. I feel strongly that it's up to all of us to fight for a future where these children can enjoy the same beautiful outdoors environment of our state that all of us have loved for years. But sadly, the very air and water of Colorado has also been threatened for years -- and incinerating solid municipal waste would just add to that threat.

You have already heard from the experts about the harmful effects on human health from incinerating waste. The list of toxins and hazardous chemicals released by this process is long and scary. It doesn't take an environmental scientist to realize this -- all of us have smelled burning trash, plastic, and rubber tires in our lives. We already have a serious problem with ozone and other greenhouse gases in the front range of Colorado so why would we want to add to this problem by allowing burning of plastics?

Obviously none of us would want a municipal waste burning plant in our own neighborhood or to live downwind of one. If these plants are allowed in

Colorado, they will no doubt be built in the same neighborhoods that are already unfairly impacted by air pollution. Colorado does not need any more ways to put our low income neighbors at risk!

I urge you on behalf of myself and the Colorado Sierra Club to pass SB24-150 and ban the construction and operation of solid waste incinerators and plastic-to-fuel facilities.

Thank you for your time.