

Senate Local Government & Housing

02/26/2026 01:30 PM

SB26-038 Colorado State University Ordinance Compliance

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeffrey Morisette Against themselves	<p>First, let me offer gratitude to the Colorado Senate for all of the work you do in representing the people in our state and for your willingness to consider this bill.</p> <p>I understand the bill will require "the board of governors of the Colorado state university system to comply with a noise or sign ordinance imposed by a local government with jurisdiction over university land." Really? Seriously? We need a bill to say that CSU should comply with rules? How can this even be up for consideration? I am left to ponder the moral and ethical compass of our board of governors. Unfortunately, given recent actions, indeed, this bill is necessary. Shame on CSU for forcing the Colorado Senate to resort to this measure and waste valuable time and resources to require that they behave as respectable and good neighbors.</p> <p>My family and I moved to Fort Collins in 2008, drawn here by the natural beauty of the area and the high standard of living. Since then we have seen the area grow. For the most part we have appreciated that this growth has been moderated by thoughtful regulations, including those pertaining to signs. We believe that CSU's recently deployed billboards violate those regulations in multiple ways.</p> <p>If a city has agreed upon regulations for signs, or any collective measures to ensure the standard of living for that community, it is incumbent upon all citizens to respect those rules. We believe that our institutions of higher learning should be held to an even higher standard than the citizens. What CSU has done in their deployment of these out-of-regulation billboards is unneighborly, unbecoming of an</p>

	<p>entity that is supposed to set a higher standard, and criminal in their use of taxpayer dollars to fund these flagrant violation of our city's code.</p> <p>We are left to wonder how this was permitted and how it is being allowed to remain. We believe the only acceptable action is for the billboards to be removed and for CSU to be held accountable to the communities in which they reside. The billboards are offensive both in their obnoxious and greedy use of space and blatant disregard for the reasonable standards established by the city. Unfortunately, it will take this bill to make CSU behave like the neighbor and leader they are supposed to be.</p>
<p>Vincent Landau For themselves</p>	<p>As a resident of Fort Collins, I am strongly in favor of SB26-038. CSU used their status as a state property to go against the wishes of the community in which they reside. They put forth bad faith arguments about how electronic billboards are intended for the benefit of their students and campus, but almost all of the billboards are used for general advertising and are directed toward traffic running alongside campus on Fort Collins city property. These signs are not only an eyesore, but they are also a danger to the community, as they are literally designed to draw the attention of drivers away from the roads and traffic (why else would they be directed toward oncoming traffic). The residents of Fort Collins and surrounding communities don't want these billboards. I understand that Fort Collins is just one community in Colorado, and is also not necessarily as important to most members of the Colorado legislature since it is not in your districts, but I ask you all to please support Fort Collins residents nonetheless by passing this bill.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>- Vincent Landau, Fort Collins resident</p>
<p>Ashley Waddell For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to voice my support of SB-SB26-038, regarding Colorado State University Ordinance Compliance.</p>

	<p>Because Colorado State University has ignored local residents' complaints about their out-of-code signs ringing campus, it is necessary to legally require CSU to respect our local ordinances on signage.</p> <p>The signs in question are not just an eyesore: they are truly a safety concern. The flashing lights on the signs are distracting to drivers. Fortunately, I've not actually witnessed any car-pedestrian or car-bicycle crashes due to the signs, but I HAVE witnessed multiple near-collisions, because the vehicle driver was paying attention to the sign, not his or her driving. I also was at the Shields/Elizabeth intersection once when one driver seems to have mistaken the flashing green of the billboard for a green light, and started into the intersection before the red light had changed. The overall safety risk is amplified by the fact that all the signs are in pedestrian-heavy and bike-heavy areas on the edges of campus.</p> <p>Additionally, the Las Vegas-style flashing lights are not in line with the character of our city, or the University's educational mission. The sign ordinance in Fort Collins has been in place for more than 50 years, and in that time has maintained the beauty of our city, while making sure advertising doesn't take over the visual experience of our town.</p> <p>And finally, I'm troubled by the outright lies CSU has been telling about the nature of the signs: Most of what appears on the signs is commercial advertising, but whenever a citizen complains about the signs, we are told "oh, it's for safety announcements" or "the signs are for all-campus events." This isn't true -- and in any case, phone alerts (which have been used by CSU for many years) are a much more effective way to communicate safety announcements to the campus population.</p> <p>The University's attitude is one of contempt for the local population, as it has been unwilling to budge, or to even tell the truth, about the</p>
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	<p>signs. It would have been better, of course, for CSU to just behave like a good citizen of Fort Collins... but since it has refused to do that, please pass this legislation to force the signs to come down.</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>Ashley Waddell</p> <p>Fort Collins, CO</p>
<p>Michael May For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Michael May, I'm submitting written testimony in the case that I am not available to give one remotely. I am a political science graduate student at CSU, and graduated with my undergrad from the same university. For the last five years, I have lived within 2-3 blocks of CSU's Canvas stadium, from living in the summit hall dorms to the Aggie Village apartments across the intersection from the stadium. I'm writing today to ask you all to pass this bill and regulate the amount of noise and light pollution that CSU has been allowed to get away with all of these years.</p> <p>In the summit hall dorm rooms, I had a east facing room which had a slightly obstructed view of the stadium, and on multiple occasions the lights that were left on throughout the night would disturb my attempts to sleep without using the blackout blinds. On one specific occasion, during an especially overcast night, the lights bounced off the cloud cover and made the night shine like day. During an especially busy midterm season, this unwillingness of our university to turn off the lights made me either lose sleep or oversleep a number of times during my undergraduate career.</p> <p>In the Aggie Village apartment, the primary point of interference is the various loud sounds that are played through the loudspeakers or the cannon. I typically work weekends, and on multiple occasions have been awakened from sleep from the train horn, (that friends from ~2 miles away from the stadium allege they can hear, well into the night), or the cannon that fires every time one team scores a touchdown. These things have directly affected my quality of life and the quality of my sleep, which as a graduate student is critical to my success at this university.</p>

	<p>To conclude this statement, I ask the committee to please pass this bill, it would have immediate impacts upon student and community welfare by forcing the university to consider the local noise regulations that exist for a reason. Thank you for your time!</p>
<p>Cody DeVries For themselves</p>	<p>I am a citizen of Fort Collins and have lived in northern Colorado for over a decade. I support this bill for Colorado State University and any state university to follow local laws and compliance.</p> <p>The signs the university have erected have changed the character of the town. As a cornerstone of the Fort Collins, I am appalled that the university has taken such strides to go against the fabric of the town, instead of further engraining itself further into this great city's culture.</p> <p>I can attest that these signs have very little to do with public safety or promoting the university. The grand majority of what is displayed on these signs are advertisements and I view this as a simple money grab attempt by a public university. Additionally, I view these signs as dangerous in regards to traffic safety. They are large and brighter than traffic lights, almost forcing drivers to shift their gaze from the road to these signs.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.</p>
<p>Karen Artell For themselves</p>	<p>I support SB26-038. CSU has for too long ignored the wishes of Fort Collins residents. CSU should be a good neighbor and comply with City ordinances like everyone else who works or lived in Fort Collins. These are reasonable ordinances that protect City residents and CSU staff, faculty and students alike.</p>



Serving the Pueblo Community Since 1910

302 N. Santa Fe Ave. • Pueblo, CO 81003 • (719) 542-1704 • (719) 546-9596 fax • pueblochamber.org

5 February 2026

Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

On behalf of the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our opposition to Senate Bill 26-038 due to its potential negative impacts on Colorado State University Pueblo and the broader Southern Colorado community it serves.

Colorado State University Pueblo is a critical economic, educational, and cultural anchor for the Pueblo region. The university regularly hosts athletic competitions, concerts, commencements, student activities, and community events that are integral to campus life and that generate substantial economic activity for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, retailers, and service providers throughout the region.

SB26-038, as currently drafted, creates significant concern that routine and permitted university activities could be subject to increased complaints, inconsistent enforcement, or liability related to noise standards that do not adequately account for the realities of a college campus. Sporting events, outdoor gatherings, live music, and large-scale campus events are an expected and essential part of the university experience and should not be placed at risk by overly broad or ambiguous statewide regulations.

The Chamber is particularly concerned that the bill undermines Colorado State University Pueblo's longstanding authority and flexibility as a state entity and equally fails to recognize the unique role universities play in their communities. Local governments and campus administrators are best positioned to balance neighborhood livability with institutional operations, student engagement, and community participation.

Limiting the ability of Colorado State University Pueblo to host events and programming would have unintended consequences beyond the campus. It would reduce economic activity, discourage visitor attendance, negatively affect student recruitment and retention, and weaken the cultural and civic vibrancy that the university brings to Pueblo and Southern Colorado.

The Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce strongly supports Colorado State University Pueblo and its mission. We believe SB26-038, as written, creates unnecessary risk for the university and the community partnerships it supports. For these reasons, we respectfully urge legislators to oppose SB26-038 or significantly amend the bill to ensure that institutions of higher education can continue to operate, host events, and engage with their communities without undue regulatory burden.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the State of Colorado. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional insight from the Pueblo business community and to work collaboratively on solutions that protect both community livability and the institutions that drive regional prosperity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duane Nava', is written over a large, stylized number '1'.

Duane Nava
President & CEO
Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce



February 18, 2026

Dear Senator Kipp and Representative Zokaie:

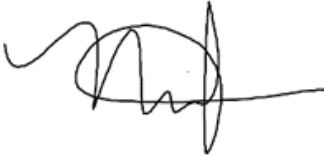
The Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo is writing this letter to express our strong support for Colorado State University Pueblo (CSU Pueblo) as well as the Colorado State University System in opposition of Senate Bill 26-038.

As a valued member of our Chamber and a cornerstone institution in Southern Colorado, CSU Pueblo plays a vital role in creating pathways for individuals to pursue their dreams, advancing workforce development, expanding access to higher education, and driving economic growth throughout our region. The University serves a richly diverse student population and is proudly designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), reflecting its longstanding commitment to expanding access and opportunity. CSU Pueblo provides critical pathways to higher education and economic mobility for first-generation students, working families, and historically underrepresented communities throughout Southern Colorado.

We believe this Senate Bill would negatively impact CSU Pueblo's ability to fulfill its mission, effectively recruit students, and consistently use all assets on campus such as the football facility, which serves as a venue for fundraising and entertainment purposes. In a time where funding cuts are impacting universities across the nation; CSU Pueblo must retain its full ability to carry out all student, athletic, and fundraising activities moving forward. There could be unintended consequences not only for the University, but for local businesses, employers, and the broader community that rely on CSU Pueblo as a regional anchor.

We respectfully urge you to carefully consider the impact of this Senate Bill and to oppose measures that would hinder CSU Pueblo's continued success. Our Chamber stands firmly in support of the University and its mission to provide accessible and high quality education, while strengthening our local economy. Thank you for your consideration and your service to Colorado.

With Kind Regards,



Noah Commerford, MBA
President & CEO
Latino Chamber Commerce of Pueblo



February 24, 2026

Senate Local Government Committee

Senators Tony Exum, Marc Snyder, Mark Baisley, Matt Ball, William Lindstedt, Larry Liston and Janice Rich
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80205

Dear Senate Local Government Committee:

As a member of the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance, the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce has joined with our business colleagues across the region to **OPPOSE SB26-038**, also known as Colorado State University Ordinance Compliance.

The substance of this legislation would render unprecedented upheaval of our jurisdictional landscape, inhibit the growth and prosperity of the Colorado State University System, and diminish the economic vibrancy of the cultural hub of the Fort Collins community. We encourage our state assembly to set aside SB26-038 in favor of more insightful initiatives that strengthen our economy and encourage strategic investments that promote shared prosperity across Colorado.

We believe SB26-038 is fatally flawed and cannot be adequately amended to alleviate detrimental and highly disruptive effects of this legislation:

- Requiring a State entity to comply with local signage and noise codes establishes a precedent for wholesale reconfiguration of jurisdictional authority established under the Colorado Constitution. Alone, this bill would single out a specific entity for unequal treatment under state law. If allowed to stand, there is no foreseeable end to copycat legislation that would expand upon this measure for any number of real or perceived annoyances.
- Extending well beyond the Colorado State University at Fort Collins campus, the immediate effect of this bill will impact operations, activities and local relationships for all properties within the CSU System. Through its Extension Services, CSU operates facilities in 55 counties across the state while the SPUR campus serves the Denver Metro area.
- In light of diminishing financial support through the state budget, CSU and all institutions of higher learning have been challenged to pursue supplemental revenue sources. Although advertising and events cannot fully backfill diminishing public support, it does help diversify income streams while serving as a magnet for visitors and ancillary business opportunities that would not otherwise exist.
- Though primarily providing a platform for commercial advertising, electronic signage installed on or near the main Fort Collins campus has already demonstrated its value in reaching students, faculty and the broader community with relevant, timely and visible health and safety messaging.

We strongly believe that stifling the economic engine of Colorado State University to assuage personal sensitivities will prove far more detrimental than any benefits SB26-038 hopes to deliver.

Respectfully,

The Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce

Ann R. Hutchison
President & CEO





February 11, 2026

Colorado Senate Committee on Local Government & Housing
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our opposition to Senate Bill 26-038. While well-intentioned, this bill creates problematic precedent and economic consequences that extend far beyond a single campus issue.

CSU Fort Collins contributes approximately \$26 million annually in sales and use tax revenue to Fort Collins, which is over 17% of the city's total. The bill's requirements would create fragmented compliance obligations across CSU's statewide operations (Fort Collins, Denver, Pueblo, and 55 Extension offices), impose administrative costs during federal funding uncertainty, and potentially reduce revenue generating activities that support university operations and regional economic activity.

This legislation creates regulatory uncertainty that undermines Colorado's competitive position. Requiring compliance with varying municipal ordinances across dozens of jurisdictions contradicts the General Assembly's directive for institutions to improve financial sustainability. If municipalities can regulate state university operations today, what prevents expansion to other operational restrictions tomorrow? This precedent affects not only CSU but CU Boulder, CU Denver, UNC, and other state institutions that serve as economic engines statewide.

Specific operational concerns are better addressed through direct dialogue between university leadership and city officials rather than blanket legislation affecting the entire CSU System. We urge the committee to vote against SB 26-038 and support collaborative solutions that preserve both community interests and Colorado's economic competitiveness.

Respectfully,

Simone D. Ross
CEO
Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 26, 2026

Chair and Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB26-038. Colorado State University has great appreciation and regard for Sen. Cathy Kipp, and we have worked with her over recent months to address her concerns. Despite those efforts, we must respectfully oppose this bill.

While we understand the intent behind this legislation, SB26-038 creates significant consequences that extend well beyond Fort Collins and affect core aspects of university operations, student life, and our ability to serve Colorado.

Jurisdictional Precedent: This bill establishes a concerning precedent that spreads beyond CSU by subjecting state institutions to local government regulatory authority, undermining the university's constitutional standing as a state entity. This opens the door for municipalities across Colorado to impose varying regulations on and exercise control over state university campuses and state agencies, entities that have very different missions than those of local governments. The Board of Governors, the CSU System, and CSU operate facilities across the state – including CSU Pueblo, CSU Spur in Denver, 10 Agricultural Experiment Stations and extension offices in 55 counties – meaning the CSU enterprise would be subject to dozens of municipal ordinances that could vary significantly and change with each local election cycle. This fragmented approach to regulating state institutions threatens the ability of state agencies to serve all Coloradans consistently and effectively.

Student Experience and University Operations: Concerts, sports events – particularly football games – and the associated traditions are a vital part of the student experience at CSU, and the noise provisions in this bill could negatively impact these experiences that are so important to our students, including commencement. These events are cherished by our alumni, parents, donors and fans from across Colorado, and serve as vehicles for fundraising, stewardship and other forms of engagement. Many of these events also generate revenue during a period of significant financial pressure. Games and events at Canvas Stadium created more than \$60 million in economic activity for the local economy in 2025; \$53 million in 2024. Anything that curtails or diminishes our ability to host football games and other events would have far-reaching adverse impacts well beyond CSU, affecting local businesses and the economic health of the region.

Public Safety: The purpose of the new signs is grounded in campus safety. The signage partnership comes at no cost to CSU and, in fact, generates revenue that directly funds safety



initiatives, including security enhancements to campus buildings. The signs also augment our current safety communications systems by providing immediate visual emergency notifications for weather events, police activity, and safety updates without requiring people to be actively monitoring phones or apps. These signs have already proven valuable during emergencies, including high wind events last semester. We understand that most people passing by will experience advertising and campus messaging rather than safety alerts, and we believe that balance is worthwhile given the benefits the signs provide.

Partnership with Fort Collins: CSU values our decades-long partnership with Fort Collins. We shared signage plans with city leadership nearly a year in advance and made adjustments based on their feedback, including eliminating some locations, reducing sign sizes, and implementing night-time dimming protocols that respect the city's Night Sky initiative.

Fort Collins is one of the great college towns in the nation because of the strong town-gown partnership that's been built over more than 150 years. We remain committed to working collaboratively with city leaders, neighbors and other stakeholders to address community concerns while protecting the university's ability to serve its educational mission and support regional economic vitality.

We respectfully urge the committee to vote no on SB26-038.

Sincerely,

Amy Parsons
President
Colorado State University

BRIAN BEINLICH
P.O. BOX 51
FORT COLLINS, CO 80522-0051
EMAIL: BRIAN@BEINLICH.ORG
PHONE: 503 780-1600

February 25, 2026

Senate Local Government Committee
Colorado General Assembly

Committee members:

I am writing today to express my support for Senate Bill 26-038, (SB 26-038) which addresses the electric signs appearing on the CSU campus in Fort Collins.

I live near Shields and Vine streets, about two miles from the CSU campus, and quite regularly travel along Shields Street and the surrounding streets. I consider this area to be part of my neighborhood.

I have watched with distress and concern as the large pole-mounted electric signs have appeared along Shields and in other places. Lately I have noticed several smaller vertically-oriented, ground-mounted signs appearing in the area.

I find these signs to be visually offensive and distracting. The signs could distract motorists, potentially creating a traffic safety issue.

In addition, the signs are completely out of character for Fort Collins. The City has made great efforts to create a visually clean and uncluttered look, as particularly evidenced by placing power poles and lines underground. I am proud of the resulting look of my town, and these signs severely degrade our quality of life.

The vast majority of residents appear to be upset with these signs. A recent NextDoor posting¹ expressing disapproval of the signs received 13 comments, all of them in agreement, along with 45 positive of 48 “reactions”. Another posting² garnered 32 mostly approving comments and 33 positive of 37 “reactions.”

CSU does not appear to be listening to residents’ complaints, and seems unwilling to work with Sen. Kipp’s attempts to resolve these issues, which I understand also include complaints about noise. Therefore, unfortunately, the State needs to get involved, and that is what SB 26-038 attempts to do.

¹ https://nextdoor.com/p/ZP3j9M8XpLwJ?view=detail&init_source=search&query=signs

² https://nextdoor.com/p/bMbcZr7ZykJ2?view=detail&init_source=search&query=signs

I urge you to pass this legislation out of committee, so that the Legislature can restore the beauty and high quality of life that we desire for Fort Collins.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian P. Beinlich" followed by a small, stylized monogram "BB".

Brian Beinlich
(Street address withheld for privacy)