



TO: **House Bill Sponsors:** Lesley Smith, Rebekah Stewart
Senate Bill Sponsor: Cathy Kipp
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation & Energy:
Senators: Lisa Cutter (Chair), Matt Ball (Vice Chair), Marc Catlin, Tony Exum, William Lindstedt, Kyle Mullica, Byron Pelton, and Tom Sullivan

FROM: The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)

DATE: March 19, 2026

RE: **HB26-1007 IMPROVE CUSTOMER USE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES**
Concerning measures to improve a customer's ability to use distributed energy resources.

After reviewing the bill, CRES urges the Committee to **vote YES on HB26-1007.**

CRES is a strong advocate for renewable energy, including better access for residential solar energy. This bill supports Governor Polis' executive order from last summer by eliminating barriers and lowering cost of solar power by improving access to the benefits and cost savings of solar power to people who have not previously had access, such as renters and low-income residents.

All three provisions in this bill help lower costs for those wishing to participate in the shift to clean, renewable energy:

- Portable-Scale Solar, commonly called plug-in or balcony solar provides access by removing the need for the resident to even have a roof.
- Meter Collars provide cost reductions by utilizing industry standard interconnection means without adding extra costly equipment.
- Production Meters had a place two decades ago when utilities needed to track every bit of solar energy produced, but these days, net metering provides the information required for accurate billing, leaving production meters as costly, legacy equipment.

We are in strong support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Vincent P. Calvano
CRES Policy Committee
Colorado Renewable Energy Society

About CRES:

CRES is a Colorado nonprofit corporation established in 1996. CRES creates environmental, social, and economic benefits for Colorado by promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy of all types. CRES advocates for a carbon-neutral Colorado powered by 100% renewable energy, and is engaged in promoting energy efficiency, demand side management, beneficial electrification, and the full breadth of renewable energy development in Colorado's communities. CRES also advocates for ways to achieve Colorado's emissions reduction targets.

CRES educates and assists the state's consumers, businesses and communities to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency in a manner that supports the economy and the environment.

CRES membership includes approximately 350 individual and business members interested in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The organization reaches more than 6,000 email subscribers and sponsors educational programs attended by hundreds.

CRES works on behalf of consumers, small businesses, and communities throughout the state to promote the expeditious transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Senate Transportation & Energy

03/25/2026

HB26-1007 Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Angela Kantola For themselves	<p>My name is Angela Kantola. I live in rural Jefferson County and I do volunteer work promoting clean energy.</p> <p>I have solar panels on my roof, but I know that’s not practical for many Colorado residents who would like to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions “ and their utility costs.</p> <p>I support HB 26-1007 because it can increase more Coloradans’ access to clean, safe, and affordable solar energy generation.</p> <p>There’s something literally empowering about generating your own electricity from the sun, but it’s not currently an option for many renters, families who live in apartments, and folks whose homes don’t have good sun exposure.</p> <p>With each step a person takes to live more sustainably, they typically want to do more and to encourage others to do likewise. In this way, portable-scale solar generation provides an important path to promoting healthier, more sustainable living for all of us.</p> <p>By reducing the amount of energy that consumers must purchase from utility companies, plug-in solar lowers electric bills and reduces demand on the grid. With increasingly common power outages, plug-in solar can provide critical backup power and make the grid more resilient and reliable.</p> <p>Plug-in solar offers a practical strategy for reducing household energy consumption, energy costs, and greenhouse gas emissions.</p>

	<p>Thus, I ask you to vote yes on HB 26-1007. Thank you.</p>
<p>David Young For themselves</p>	<p>I am a constituent in Boulder and fully support Colorado residents being allowed to use small, plug-in solar PV systems without being hindered by excessive regulations or local utilities. My wife and I are fortunate enough to own a single-family, detached home with many solar panels. With a recent upgrade, we can now cover all of our electricity usage. Our adult children are not as fortunate and there's currently little they can do for apartment living. There is no technical reason they should not be allowed to use plug-in solar to help offset continually rising electricity rates (XCEL, among others). Utilities should not be allowed to set arbitrary, unjustifiable restrictions either; they'll still earn plenty of profits from all their ratepayers. Our family and many others appreciate your support in advancing this bill to allow for more access to affordable solar options for all Coloradans!</p>
<p>Don Burzen For themselves</p>	<p>Colorado has been one of the leading states on encouraging the installation of rooftop solar, and that is terrific.</p> <p>Now there is an opportunity for citizens who cannot afford rooftop solar, or live in rental property where the investment would be lost.</p> <p>This bill will make it easier for those people to pursue these smaller systems, called either "plug in" or "balcony" solar.</p> <p>I enjoy the benefits of a rooftop system, and encourage passage of this bill so that others can benefit as well.</p> <p>Sincerely, Don N Burzen Fort Collins resident</p>
<p>Ginger Randall For themselves</p>	<p>Enabling renewable energy should not be controversial – it should be a shared goal. The science is clear: continued reliance on fossil fuels is damaging our environment and increasing long-term risk.</p> <p>We are already seeing warning signs. In regions like West Texas, expanding sinkholes and land instability linked to energy extraction practices are raising serious concerns about sustainability and safety.</p>

	<p>Renewable energy “ especially solar “ offers a path forward that is cleaner, more resilient, and increasingly affordable. It empowers individuals, reduces strain on aging infrastructure, and strengthens energy independence.</p> <p>This is not about ideology. It is about practical, forward-looking policy. Other nations are investing heavily in renewables because it works “ economically and environmentally. The United States should be leading, not lagging.</p> <p>HB26-1007 represents an opportunity to move in that direction “ to support innovation, expand access, and prioritize long-term stability over short-term profit.</p> <p>The sun is not controlled by markets or monopolies. It is a resource available to all, and it remains one of our most reliable paths toward a sustainable future.</p>
<p>linda Campbell For themselves</p>	<p>Hi! Please pass this bill! What more evidence do we need for the need to help Coloradans bring down their energy costs then the war in the Middle East and Xcels ongoing rate increases. Please help! This bill will at least give Coloradans an option!</p>
<p>Lynn K. Fritz For themselves</p>	<p>I support HB 26-1007 wholeheartedly.</p> <p>I am a homeowner who cannot install solar panels because I have too many shade trees (nice problem to have!) and I have a son in Colorado who lives in a condo. Both of us are members of community solar farms but we would love the opportunity to own and use our own solar panels to increase our use of solar energy, reduce our reliance on the electrical grid, and reduce our use of fossil fuels. And for renters, what a boon to be able to purchase solar panels and take them with them if they move.</p> <p>I also appreciate the inclusion of meter collars in the bill“it“s a small but great way to address energy affordability. It offers the opportunity for electricians to provide homeowners with better options than always upgrading their electrical panels.</p>

	<p>Please vote in support of the bill on Wednesday and forward it to the full Senate for a vote. Thank you for your service!</p> <p>Lynn K. Fritz</p>
<p>Robert Berg For themselves</p>	<p>I am living in a condominium where my building has 8 units. So under current law all the owners would have to agree to get solar installed and would require approval of the board. In any case it would be very difficult to get it passed.</p> <p>But I have a balcony which is south facing. So if this bill was to be passed I could purchase solar panels and plug them into my outlet. This would be fairly easy to do. Also if I moved could take the panels with me or sell them to another party. Also it would allow many renters to take advantage of solar energy. And the cost would be less than having rooftop solar installed by a contractor.</p>
<p>Sarah Skarie For themselves</p>	<p>Please support this bill ! As a Colorado native I have been in a public servant job all my life in law enforcement I have not been able to afford Solar for my house . This would actually help me and my neighbors and the environment. Please pass this bill it can help us all save the environment and energy and our communities!</p> <p>Sarah Skarie</p>
<p>Susan Krems For themselves</p>	<p>I taught college nutrition classes. For 25 years nutrition textbooks have emphasized food production will be more difficult due to global warming. This year's drought is evidence of climate change threatening crop production. Every possible step should be taken to reduce fossil fuel consumption + global warming. Plug in solar will help us get where we need to be + is a more affordable approach than whole house solar. Thank you.</p>

Matthew Sadar HB26-1007 Testimony

Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify through written testimony. My name is Matthew Sadar and I am the Electric Metering Manager for the City of Loveland in northern Colorado. I would like to start by sharing my appreciation to the committee for their willingness to entertain some of the amendments that have been recently presented. I do however still have some concerns about the installation of meter collars, regarding the potential safety risks they may introduce for utility personnel. With that said I am willing to work together to evaluate these issues carefully.

These devices introduce additional points of contact and complexity at the meter interface, which is traditionally a controlled and standardized environment. Any modification to that interface, especially one that may be installed or serviced by third parties can increase the likelihood of improper installation, equipment failure, or energized exposure. This creates heightened risk for lineworkers and technicians who rely on predictable installations when performing maintenance, troubleshooting, or emergency response.

In addition to the safety considerations, I have concerns about legislation that would mandate the installation of these devices while limiting the utility's ability to determine how and when they should be deployed. We are all aware that Utilities are responsible for maintaining system reliability, ensuring worker and public safety, and managing grid infrastructure based on established engineering standards. Forcing adoption through legislation undermines that responsibility and authority and limits the ability to evaluate devices based on local conditions, system compatibility, and safety protocols. We are however, open to working together to find an approach that supports all the above. 60 days for acceptance testing and review just isn't enough time, so we appreciate the potential of increasing that time period to 90 days.

Decisions about equipment installed on utility-owned or utility-serviced infrastructure should remain with the utility to ensure accountability, consistency, and the highest level of operational safety. With that said, if an existing service installation is deemed functionally unsafe or does not meet the clearance requirements of the utility then all responsibility for correcting the issue should fall on the customer, their electrician or the solar installer. We do however understand that as a utility we would be providing an estimate that would cover any utility work ahead of the specified demarcation point within a timely manner.

There is also a need to ensure the utility's revenue integrity, as uncoordinated installations by solar companies or contractors can inadvertently create challenges. If meter collars are not installed or configured correctly, they may introduce risks such as inaccurate metering, energy diversion, or billing discrepancies. We're committed to working together to ensure any installations are well-coordinated and meet the standards needed to protect both system accuracy and customer trust.

Further more, if our municipal utilities are being forced to accept these devices, there must be clearly defined lines of responsibility for installation, inspection, and ongoing maintenance. Contractors and solar providers should be required to follow strict utility-approved guidelines and maintain full coordination with the utility throughout the process. This ensures all installations meet technical, safety, and metering standards while preserving the accuracy of billing and safeguarding the utility's financial and operational obligations.

I appreciate your time today to discuss these topics.

March 25, 2026
Senate Transportation & Energy Committee

Support HB26-1007 Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources

(Senator Kipp / Representative Smith & Representative R. Stewart)

Honorable Chair Cutter, Vice Chair Ball and Members of the Committee:

My name is Clare Valentine, and I am a Senior Policy Advisor at Western Resource Advocates (WRA), where I advocate for policies that accelerate transitioning power generation to clean resources while maintaining affordable and reliable electricity for Coloradans.

WRA supports HB 1007, and we thank Senator Kipp for bringing this bill forward. This bill advances decarbonization by reducing unnecessary barriers to accessing clean energy technologies, including by reducing the cost to adopt these technologies. In addition, this bill creates more equitable opportunities for the adoption of distributed solar, including for renters and those with more modest incomes, who have historically had fewer opportunities to adopt distributed energy resources.

Portable solar is designed with a capacity of less than two kilowatts, meaning that the generation from these units primarily offsets on-site energy usage, such as from air conditioning. Portable solar can therefore contribute to alleviating stress on the grid from increasing cooling load during peak times, both on the bulk system and on distribution infrastructure, and it may contribute to reducing system costs over time.

As for meter collar adapters, this technology can enable the installation of solar, batteries, and electric vehicle chargers without costly electric service upgrades. This bill requires utilities to allow for and establish processes for the installation of meter collar adapters. These common-sense requirements can reduce barriers and costs to adopting these clean energy technologies, ultimately contributing to increased adoption that supports Colorado's clean energy goals.

To summarize, this bill will help reduce barriers to equitable and cost-conscious uptake of clean energy technologies. For that reason, we urge you to vote “yes” on House Bill 1007. Thank you.

Clare Valentine
Senior Policy Advisor
Western Resource Advocates
clare.valentine@westernresources.org
