

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
RE: HB26-1008 – Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act



March 25, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Becky Leinweber, and I serve as Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA), one of Colorado's first Regional Partnerships under the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative. I also served on the Steering Committee for Colorado's Outdoors Strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 26-1008, the Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act. I regret that I am unable to testify in person due to a scheduling conflict.

Before the Regional Partnerships Initiative, we knew the Pikes Peak region was experiencing rapid growth in recreational use, with real impacts to visitor experience, wildlife habitat, and natural resources. However, we lacked a coordinated way to respond, meaningfully engage the public, or gather the data needed to guide effective solutions.

Over the past four years, PPORA has brought together land managers, local governments, conservation groups, outdoor businesses, agricultural interests, private landowners, and community members across El Paso, Teller, and Fremont Counties. Together, we developed a comprehensive regional vision and are now implementing it with support from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado.

What has made this work successful is the leadership of Colorado Parks and Wildlife in convening partners, coordinating across jurisdictions, and helping regions like ours move from reactive to proactive management. This coordination improves outcomes not only on public lands, but also for adjacent private landowners by reducing trespass, resource impacts, wildfire risk, and user conflict.

HB 26-1008 codifies the coordinating role that Colorado Parks and Wildlife is already playing and provides the staff capacity needed to sustain and scale this work across the state. Colorado's Outdoors Strategy gave us a shared vision. The Regional Partnerships Initiative gave us a structure. This bill ensures we have the capacity to deliver.

The Pikes Peak region draws more than 25 million visitors annually and plays a significant role in Colorado's outdoor economy. We cannot manage that scale effectively without coordinated leadership.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of HB 26-1008.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Becky Leinweber

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Leinweber".

Executive Director
Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

03/26/2026

HB26-1008 Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Matthew Gray For themselves	<p>To: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee</p> <p>From: Matthew Gray</p> <p>Re: Support for HB26-1008</p> <p>Dear Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee-</p> <p>I am writing today in full support of HB26-1008. I happily pay for a Keep It Colorado pass for both of my cars, and I strongly encourage friends, family, and colleagues to do the same as often as I can. I believe that the funds dedicated from the Keep It Colorado pass are already very well stewarded by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and that HB26-1008 helps to solidify that work, both within recreation and the Regional Partnership Initiative.</p> <p>As I travel around the state to recreate and enjoy Colorado’s amazing outdoors with my family, I see the impact of these fees, and the opportunities for even deeper impact on the horizon. Specifically in Southeast Colorado, where I have been spending more and more time, I can see the potential that wide-scale collaboration across sectors will have on stewardship and recreation. These programs make a huge difference for local economies, conservation, and rural and agricultural communities in our state.</p> <p>Imagine locally planned and developed multi-use open spaces (for angling, boating, archery practice, birding, hunting, and family picnics), supported by state funding and the efforts of the RPI program. These are the types of opportunities I would love to see more of across our state. Along with smartly managed and protected wildlife, most Coloradans want these resources as well. With local know-how and the power of state-level assets, all of this is possible.</p>

	<p>Colorado Parks and Wildlife is also the right convener for this work. The processes and stakeholder engagement they have embarked on since last year, just to get HB26-1008 right, has been remarkable. They listen with care and diligence to their partners, their future collaborators, and even those that might try to block the legislation. Colorado Parks and Wildlife goes above and beyond to take all of this into consideration and bring forth a bill this legislative session that addresses so many concerns, and ensures a thriving future for Colorado. They are thoughtful, collaborative partners, making this the right work for them to lead.</p> <p>The passage of HB26-1008 is the right next move to advance recreation, conservation, and planning. Thank you for the time and efforts you give to our great state.</p> <p>Sincerely, Matt Gray</p>
--	---

To: Members of the Colorado General Assembly

Re: Support for HB26-1008 – Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act

The Colorado Mountain Club supports HB26-1008, the Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act. As a statewide organization focused on outdoor access, stewardship, and education, we recognize the importance of sustained investment in equitable access and conservation.

Founded in 1912, the Colorado Mountain Club serves thousands of members and program participants each year through outdoor education, leadership training, youth engagement, and volunteer stewardship. Our work includes trail maintenance and public lands advocacy to help ensure Colorado's landscapes remain accessible and protected.

CMC supports this legislation because it expands access to the outdoors while strengthening stewardship and conservation efforts. The bill prioritizes access for underserved communities and reduces barriers through transportation, education, and outreach, helping make outdoor recreation more inclusive.

The Act also invests in trail maintenance, habitat protection, and sustainable recreation infrastructure. These investments help address deferred maintenance and support the long-term health of public lands. In addition, the bill encourages collaboration among nonprofits, agencies, and local governments, strengthening the partnerships needed to meet growing demand for outdoor recreation.

Finally, HB26-1008 supports outdoor education and workforce development by promoting learning opportunities and career pathways in conservation and recreation management. These efforts help build the next generation of land stewards.

Colorado's public lands are central to the state's identity, economy, and quality of life. As visitation increases, continued investment in access, stewardship, and education is essential. HB26-1008 provides a practical approach to meeting these needs.

The Colorado Mountain Club urges support for this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Colorado Mountain Club

**Testimony regarding opposition/amendment of: HB26-1008, Colorado Outdoors
Opportunities Act
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454**

Thank you, Chair and Committee.

My name is Robert Edmiston. I am with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado an NRA-affiliated, all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of individual rights and public safety.

I am a former U.S. Army Officer and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I have a Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling and Guidance.

I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration as written. If the proposal were to be amended in accordance with our recommendations, we would change our position and support the bill.

This measure seeks to expand the abilities of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife with regard to coordination, planning and management. Our issue with this bill centers around the similarities in language to a bill last year, **HB25-1258**, that threatened to greatly diminish or eliminate hunting and fishing as forms of outdoor recreation in the state. The bill talks a great deal about "wildlife preservation," "conservation," "sustainable recreation." and "climate resilience". "Sportspersons" are given scant mention in the bill, and hunting and fishing are not mentioned at all. We would like to see more explanation of "sustainable recreation" to be sure that future Colorado outdoor pursuits are not limited to bird watching, hiking, dirt biking, and rock climbing, etc., to the exclusion of hunting and fishing. We do not want anti-hunting appointees to the Parks and Wildlife Commission deciding that these pursuits are not "sustainable."

This concern has been given increased urgency by an Oregon Initiative that would not only eliminate hunting and fishing, but would end the farming and ranching production of livestock for human consumption in that state. Colorado often adopts "model legislation" that originates in other states. We do not want to support a possible platform for such extreme "animal rights" activism.

[New "Peace" activist initiative criminalizes hunting, fishing, pest control, and breeding practices.](#)

If the bill were amended to ensure that hunting and fishing were included as "sustainable recreation" in the measure, we would have no problem supporting the bill. This might be done through the inclusion of language incorporating the North American Model of Wildlife Management into the concept of "sustainable recreation."

We urge a “No” vote on this proposal, as written, but would support it with the amendment described above.

Thank you.

Robert Edmiston
Volunteer Lobbyist
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454



Dear Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee-

The Members of the [Colorado Outdoor Partnership \(CO-OP\)](#) listed below, write to you collaboratively with eager support for HB26-1008. While many of our organizations and members might also submit individual testimony and support, we believe the collective voice of our cross-sector partnership is a powerful indicator of the importance of HB26-1008. This legislation will have immediate positive impact for Colorado's recreational experiences, local economy, and thriving communities.

The CO-OP brings together representatives of nonprofit organizations, associations, and local, tribal, and state governments to discuss important issues at the intersection of conservation, outdoor recreation, and land, water, and wildlife in Colorado. When making decisions, determining priorities, and advancing our goals as a collaboration, we utilize and promote [Colorado's Outdoor Principles](#) as a guide.

With these shared principles in mind, we urge you to pass HB26-1008 for several reasons:

- Outdoor recreation strengthens local economies, increases employment opportunities, and supports small businesses.
- Improved collaboration among key conservation efforts, agriculture, private landowners and other public land users, maximizes the outdoor recreation and stewardship potential of Colorado, and protects our open spaces for future generations.
- Formalizing Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) role in collaboratively leading Colorado's Outdoors Strategy ensures thoughtful leadership to support conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience in the state, and ensures outdoor recreation needs are well-represented in its leadership.
- With CPW in the lead, we will see increased and more effective coordination to anticipate and respond to potential conflicts, prioritizing integrating data and metrics from existing efforts, partnering with local and federal agencies, and shoring up state capacity in this area.
- Bolstering local planning with statewide resources ensures high-quality experiences for all outdoor users in every corner of the state.

For these reasons, and many more, we, the undersigned members of the Colorado Outdoor Partnership, encourage you to vote “yes” on HB26-1008.

Thank you for your consideration,

Acadian Desert Consulting LLC // Bird Conservancy of the Rockies // COHVCO // CSO // Colorado Mountain Bike Coalition // Everyone Outdoors Colorado // Great Outdoors Colorado // Headwaters Trails Alliance // Keep It Colorado // Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance // Rocky Mountain Innovation Lab // San Luis Valley Great Outdoors // Trust for Public Lands

The Colorado Outdoor Partnership is a statewide cooperative of conservation, outdoor recreation, and agricultural leaders supporting initiatives for conservation and responsible outdoor recreation in Colorado. Members of the CO-OP support this bill, while recognizing that other members might abstain or are unable from taking positions on specific legislation. Learn more about the Colorado Outdoor Partnership at COPartnership.org