

March 11, 2026  
House Energy & Environment Committee

## Support HB26-1268 Renewable Energy Dev. on Disturbed Lands (Rep. McCormick and Rep. Smith)

Chair Valdez, Vice Chair Velasco and Members of the Committee:

My name is Severiano DeSoto, and I am a Policy Advisor at Western Resource Advocates (WRA), where I advocate for policies that advance smart siting of renewable energy resources to advance our climate and conservation goals.

WRA supports HB26-1268 and thanks Representative McCormick and Representative Smith for bringing this bill forward. This bill will promote the development of renewable energy projects on previously disturbed lands by providing the opportunity for local governments to designate sites as redevelopment areas and utilize tax benefits to redevelop these lands. Brownfields are notoriously difficult to redevelop owing to contamination from previous development. Additionally, new renewable energy projects are increasingly facing opposition because of the potential to impact natural areas, important wildlife habitat, and agriculturally important lands. While renewable energy provides significant benefits for affordability, reliability, and resiliency, the impacts of new development on wildlife and natural areas are real. **By incentivizing development on previously degraded lands, this bill will help to reduce conflicts with natural areas and agriculturally important lands while providing opportunities to redevelop previously disturbed lands.**

Importantly, this bill is also permissive rather than prescriptive. Nothing in this bill affects local governments from deciding to permit projects. Rather, this bill provides local decision makers with the opportunity to promote development in lower conflict areas while maintaining the existing tax base and providing new economic development opportunities.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote “yes” on HB26-1268 to promote the smart siting of new renewable energy projects and preserve Colorado’s progress toward a clean energy future. Thank you, committee members, for your attention.

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