

House Energy & Environment

03/25/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1225 Distributed Energy Resources Requirements

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>JEANY RUSH Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE RE: HB26-1225 DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES REQUIREMENTS SPONSORS: L SMITH, J WILLFORD, M BALL FROM: JEANY RUSH COLORADO CONSTITUENT VOTE: NO "IS THERE SOMETHING IN THE AIR" FOLKS "A Solar Garden is a community shared solar array with grid-connected subscribers. Homes and businesses, even if shaded by trees, receive a bill credit as if the panels were on their own roof using "virtual net metering". Your bill wants to have interconnection process by July 1, 2026. Solar on homes already will not pay back adequately, and gives a lot more benefit to the middleman. Add the third party, and "there's your sign." Your statement that solar/battery storage, are increasingly recognized as cost-effective grid reliability is DELUSIONAL AT BEST! THIS state has the worst, inaccurate, "Clean Energy" policy imaginable. None of this, nor the wind travesties are clean, affordable, and reliable, or sustainable. This just adds insult to injury. The idea of forcing shut downs of Coal, Natural Gas, in lieu of this mess is sad, criminal, and NOT GRID SAFE! EV and the Electric craze paralyzes our communities, gives "Big DADDY" control over our comings, goings, or If we come or GO! The whole Globalist WEF idea to shove us into smaller spaces, less cars, less single family homes, and then RATION WATER AND ENERGY, ALL THE WHILE DESTROYING ENERGY SOURCES, FOOD SOURCES, LAND OWNERSHIP, CAR OWNERSHIP, RANCHERS, AND MORE FOR SUPPOSED FAKE ALTERNATIVES IS CRIMINAL AT BEST! Just like the Lemon of Transit access, this ties the people to more boondoggles, which will in the end, leave them WET AND COLD! INDIVIDUALS USING resources on farms, is one thing. But centralizing this mess is a STEP INTO THE TWILIGHT ZONE. The Entire Green New/Old/Destructive Deals, are more of the hoax to take TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS from the people, while enriching corporations building these messes. Stick it all in your backyard. There are ways to avoid this, but this state has abandoned reason! The administrative infrastructure is another boondoggle™ to waste resources, time, and money.</p>

	<p>NOW, LET’S HIT THE BIG INSULT TO THIS BILL: LET’S FORCE THE SAFETY CLAUSE SO PEOPLE CANNOT VOTE ON THIS EITHER. YOU ALL HAVE EMBRACED THE TRUE MEANING OF MARXISM. ITS TOO MUCH.</p>
<p>Jamie Valdez For GreenLatinos</p>	<p>Hello Committee members and thank you for this opportunity to provide input. My name is Jamie Valdez, and I am a resident of Pueblo and the Colorado Transportation and Energy Policy Advocate for GreenLatinos, submitting comments today in support of HB26-1225.</p> <p>Pueblo is a community that has long been on the frontlines of energy production, and we have borne the disproportionate environmental and health burdens of fossil fuel reliance. As Colorado moves toward a clean energy future, it is essential that environmental justice is at the center of that transition. HB26-1225 is a critical step toward ensuring that Pueblo receives the benefits of that transition. I support this bill because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It Promotes Energy Equity: By strengthening community solar gardens and ensuring benefits flow to low-income residents, this bill makes renewable energy accessible to those who cannot install rooftop panels. • It Controls Rising Costs: The annual adjustment of bill credits ensures that our savings keep pace with utility rates, which is crucial for affordability in our area. • It Speeds Up Local Clean Energy: By allowing third-party contractors to speed up interconnection, we can get solar and storage projects built faster, reducing our dependence on aging, polluting infrastructure. <p>Latino households throughout Colorado need clean, affordable, and locally controlled energy. HB26-1225 helps deliver that. I urge the committee to vote YES on HB26-1225.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>



TO: **House Bill Sponsors:** Representatives Lesley Smith and Jenny Willford
Senate Bill Sponsor: Senator Matt Ball
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment
Representatives: Alex Valdez (Chair), Elizabeth Velasco (Vice Chair), Carlos Barron, Ken DeGraaf, Lori Goldstein, Jamie Jackson, Junie Joseph, Amy Paschal, Manny Rutinel, Scott Slaugh, Lesley Smith, Jenny Willford, and Dan Woog

FROM: The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)

DATE: March 9, 2026

RE: HB 26-1225 Concerning Community Solar Gardens in Colorado

The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES) Urges the Colorado House Committee on Energy & Environment to Approve HB 26-1225.

Our reasons for recommending this action are:

1. Solar Gardens represents a method to further the use of a key renewable resource (i.e. solar) without requiring the state to spend additional money in a fiscally challenging environment.
2. Solar Gardens allows for a wider participation of consumers who may not be able to utilize solar due to either their locality or financial position. This is especially important for lower income residents (i.e. Income Qualified or IQ) who are least able to afford the ongoing increases in the cost of electricity.
3. The Federal funding for Solar Gardens is time limited and unless they begin construction by July 4, 2026 or enter service by January 1, 2028, this funding source will be wasted. This will also mean that some of the 300 MW of potential new solar energy will either be lost or the cost will shift back to the residents of the state in one form or another.
4. We strongly believe that Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCO) must do a better and faster job with regard to reviewing, approving and completing interconnection requests. This bill will help in accomplishing this objective.

5. While we support the passage of the bill, we encourage all parties involved to continue to seek the optimum approach to providing any ongoing adjustments (i.e. Bill Credits). In particular, we believe that they should reflect the actual costs of service over the life of the bill and that they should be targeted primarily or wholly at Income Qualified (IQ) participants. Examples might include using the average of 3 years from the annual variable bill credits to set the fixed bill credit or increasing fixed bill credits for IQ customers annually by 25% of CGI indicative of the 25% of the bill credits that are passed through to IQ customers.

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.

March 11, 2026

RE: Support HB26-1225 Distributed Energy Resources Requirements

Dear Chair Valdez and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

On behalf of Front Range Advocacy (FRA), a consultancy amplifying eco-forward policies for Front Range and gateway communities, I write to urge your support for HB26-1225, which would help expand access to and improve the economics of community solar farms. Beyond access and economics, HB26-1225 strengthens the long-term sustainability of the community solar model by removing the process friction that has stalled promising innovations from reaching scale.

FRA is aware of several dozen community solar farms currently providing at least 80 megawatts of energy. Each solar farm in Front Range and gateway communities represents an important source of decentralized power. Decentralization reduces strain on the larger grid, provides affordable access to clean energy, and establishes energy resiliency during grid outages, planned disruptions, and disasters. This resilience particularly supports families, seniors, and those with medical needs that require consistent power availability and redundancy. This is the value of investing in sustainability technologies and reducing energy subscriber friction points.

Further, the current state of Front Range community solar farms represents a promising sustainable energy model that HB26-1225 can ensure continues by removing barriers to adoption and ensuring economic sustainability for energy subscribers facing significant financial pressures caused by federal policies and legislation. Many Front Range community solar farms prove solar panels can harmonize with sustainable, local agriculture produced on-site with lower irrigation rates and enhance affordable housing development cost efficacy.

Again, FRA urges you to vote yes on HB26-1225 to ease barriers to the adoption of community solar farms and provide cost-effective structural support.

Sincerely,
Cameron M. Gil
[Front Range Advocacy](#)
Founder





March 24, 2026

House Energy & Environment Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB25-1225 Distributed Energy Resources Requirements

Dear Energy & Environment Committee.

My name is Ann Sutton, living in Westminster CO. This testimony represents the position of the League of Women Voters of Colorado in Support of HB26-1225 that is intended to accelerate the interconnection process for community solar gardens to meet the federal tax credit expiration date of 2029.

The League supports the predominant reliance on renewable resources for energy and action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources through funding and financial incentives. In this case, tax credits can make a significant difference in whether electric utility customers can afford to install residential solar panels and benefit from net metering.

Even so, some customers may be unable to install their own solar generation because of an unsuitable location or because they are renters. Subscribing to a solar garden allows more customers to offset part of their electricity expenses with net metering credits, and to help in mitigating the effects of climate change.

Our thanks to the sponsors for assuring this opportunity and for providing this encouragement to our citizens and communities.

We ask the committee for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Ann Sutton Volunteer Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Colorado
110 16th Street Mall
Suite 1326
Denver, CO 80202

Written Testimony in Support of [HB26 1225](#)

Reactivate

Good afternoon,

My name is Tom Figel, and I serve as the VP of Policy for Reactivate, a mission-driven renewable energy company that develops, owns, and operates community solar, small utility scale solar, energy storage, and other distributed generation projects designed to deliver tangible grid benefits and energy cost savings to constituents across Colorado. I'm based here in Denver where I've worked in distributed energy for over 10 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB26-1225. This legislation will expand cost-effective distributed clean energy while prioritizing the pocketbooks of Colorado's working families. We respectfully urge a "YES" vote on this bill.

- Including a price of inflation adjustor for fixed bill credit community solar subscription options will stabilize bill credits for low-income customers, increasing customer savings and overall predictability of the benefits of CSGs, while also supporting project financeability
- Allowing developers to lead third-party interconnection network upgrades, in compliance with utility standards and specifications, will reduce costs and allow faster interconnection timelines in support of Governor Polis' executive order to accelerate clean energy before the step down of the federal investment tax credit. Reducing the costs of project interconnection will increase the affordability of community solar for all Coloradans, while maintaining a safe, reliable and resilient grid. In leading community solar states such as MA, ME and NY, developer-led interconnection has proven that third-party led network upgrades can be delivered faster and more cost effectively, without compromising safety or reliability.¹ These projects have been able to get into operation more quickly, sometimes by months, and save tens of thousands of dollars compared to initial utility cost estimates, while helping to alleviate utility backlogs from interconnecting renewable energy.

Please vote yes on HB26-1225. Thank you for your leadership and your support for enhancing affordable energy and grid efficiency in CO.

Tom Figel

¹ [Reactivate - 00.Self-Performance Cover Sheet Summary.pdf - All Documents](#)

VP of Policy, Reactivate

Figel@reactivate.com

House Energy & Environment

03/25/2026

HB26-1225 Distributed Energy Resources Requirements

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March 25, 2026
House Energy & Environment Committee

Support HB26-1225 Distributed Energy Resources Requirements (Representative Smith & Representative Willford / Senator Ball)

Honorable Chair Valdez, Vice Chair Velasco 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 HB26-1225 and support the amendments the sponsors are bringing forward today and we thank Representative Smith and Representative Willford for bringing this bill forward.

In short, this bill can improve affordability and community solar programming for income-qualified customers. As amended, this bill allows community solar subscriber organizations to provide income-qualified subscribers with bill credits that are fixed for three-year periods. Historically, community solar participants have had access to bill credits that vary annually based on the current retail rate. **This bill, however, creates greater opportunities for income-qualified participants to access predictable and valuable bill credits that can help reduce their energy burden.**

In addition, this bill, as amended, supports the deployment of distributed energy storage. Through amendment L.005, the bill modifies the definition of dispatchable distributed generation in two ways.

- It qualifies *standalone* energy storage systems as a form of dispatchable distributed generation; and
- It defines dispatchable distributed generation capacity based on the rating of the energy storage system, instead of the rating of the generation system.

These two changes help ensure that, moving forward, the dispatchable distributed generation program is more focused on the deployment of energy storage, which can provide numerous grid benefits and help integrate existing renewable energy. **By shifting the focus from distributed solar to distributed storage, utility programming can provide greater grid value and reduce system costs for customers.**

Given the positive changes that this bill effectuates for income-qualified community solar participants and grid value of the dispatchable distributed generation program, **we urge you to vote “yes” on House Bill 1225, and amendment L.005. Thank you for your time.**

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