

April 3, 2026

RE: Support HB26-1184 Sunset Process Forest Health Council

Dear Chair Roberts and Members of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

As part of Front Range Advocacy (FRA), a community organization dedicated to the needs of Front Range and gateway communities. I am writing to ask for your support for HB26-1184. Our forests are vital for the health of Colorado's watersheds, wildlife, outdoor recreation sector, and the characteristic image of the state.

As you know, the Colorado Forest Health Council was created in 2016 to provide a collaborative forum to advise policymakers on a variety of issues regarding Colorado's forests. Housed in the Department of Natural Resources, the Council's directive to provide legislative recommendations annually is valuable for addressing and elevating pertinent forest health needs. These recommendations are more crucial than ever, as the long-term health of Colorado's forests is precarious. Our forests are facing challenges ranging in complexity and cause; and require constant input from experts and representatives of affected communities. This council provides one such forum to raise challenges and work at best practice to address pests, density management, natural disaster risks, and emerging conditions that would deleteriously affect regional watersheds and gateway communities.

The Legislative Council Staff fiscal note affirms that convening this council requires a nominal cost. Recent amendments to HB26-1184 may reduce or eliminate this General Fund expenditure. The Department of Regulatory Agencies 2025 Sunset Review further affirms the importance of convening its diverse membership and that the General Assembly enacts council recommendations such as workforce development for forestry and wildfire mitigation professions and capacity building for local, rural governments seeking wildfire mitigation and preparedness grants.

Again, FRA urges you to vote yes on HB26-1184 to provide continued authority for this reliable, solutions-oriented forum to meet the ongoing and emerging needs of Colorado's forests.

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

