

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Sunset Review Bill Sponsors

**FROM:** Lyft, Inc.; Uber Technologies, Inc.

**DATE:** April 23, 2026

**RE:** Comments on HB26-1326 Sunset Public Utilities Commission Bill

### Introduction

Lyft and Uber respectfully submits the following comments in response to HB26-1326 Sunset Public Utilities Commission Bill and amendments being considered today. Thank you to Majority Leader Duran, members of the committee, and bill sponsors for your thoughtful work on this proposal. We also appreciate the Commission's thorough review of the transportation network company (TNC) regulations and share the Commission's commitment to public safety, transparency, and effective regulatory oversight.

While we generally support the proposal focused on TNCs, specifically Section 21 of the bill, we continue to have concerns about certain elements that could undermine innovation and impose unworkable operational requirements. We have attached herein proposed redlines to Section 21 to help remedy these concerns.

First, while we appreciate the amendments recently proposed in L.010.04 and believe these works towards seamless incorporation of the currently pending HB26-1043 (TNC Discriminatory Practices Bill) that we worked closely on with Representative Rydin, we still request the complete removal of lines 9-16 on page 24 (in other words, we do not believe that C.R.S. 40-10.1-605 (7)(a) should be removed from the current statute). The strikethrough of this section is already addressed in HB26-1043. Without this change, HB26-1326 is inconsistent with HB26-1043.

Second, we continue to have concerns regarding the safety reporting piece proposed in C.R.S. 40-10.1-609. The current language which would require that TNCs publicly disclose "all safety-related incident reports" is incredibly broad and unworkable, given that TNCs track all types of incidents ranging from technical issues on the app to serious safety reports. Further, requiring reporting of "all" incidents could potentially compromise driver and rider privacy, and could lead to decreased consumer reporting. Finally, requiring raw data reporting without proper context could lead to public misunderstanding and misinterpretation. In the interest of meaningful transparency, we believe a more constructive approach would be to require reporting of specific, material safety incident categories, such as serious sexual assault and motor vehicle fatalities.

Finally, we have suggested an addition of C.R.S. 40-10.1-605 (11)(d) for clarity and revisions to C.R.S. 40-10.1-605 (12) and (13) to account for technology innovation and limitations.

1           **SECTION 21.**           In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-10.1-605,  
2 amend ~~(7) and (9) (7)~~; and add (11), (12), and (13) as follows:

3           **40-10.1-605. Operational requirements - driver impersonation**  
4 - misdemeanor - rules.

5           ~~(7) (a) — A transportation network company is not liable for a~~  
6 ~~driver's violation of subsection (6) of this section unless the driver's~~  
7 ~~violation has been previously reported to the transportation network~~  
8 ~~company in writing, and the transportation network company has failed~~  
9 ~~to reasonably address the alleged violation. The commission shall afford~~  
10 ~~a transportation network company the same due process rights afforded~~  
11 ~~transportation providers in defending against civil penalties assessed by~~  
12 ~~the commission.~~

13           (b) The commission may assess a civil penalty IN AN AMOUNT up  
14 to five hundred fifty ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED dollars under this  
15 subsection (7) FOR A DRIVER'S VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS  
16 SECTION.

17 ~~— (9) A driver shall immediately report to the transportation network~~  
18 ~~company any refusal to transport a passenger pursuant to paragraph (a) of~~  
19 ~~subsection (6) SUBSECTION (6) of this section, and the transportation~~  
20 ~~network company shall ANONYMIZE AND annually report all such refusals~~  
21 ~~to the commission in a form and manner determined by the commission.~~  
22 ~~— THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE THE ANONYMIZED REPORTS AVAILABLE TO~~  
23 ~~— THE PUBLIC.~~

Commented [A1]: edits in blue are those made through recent amendment L.010.04

Commented [A2]: Uber and Lyft request that this strikethrough of 7(a) be removed given that this language was replaced with different language in the Rep. Rydin bill

1 (11) (a) AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL NOT IMPERSONATE A DRIVER OR  
2 ENGAGE IN AN ACT THAT FALSELY REPRESENTS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS  
3 REPRESENTING A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY OR IS  
4 RESPONDING TO A RIDER'S REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK  
5 COMPANY SERVICES.

6 (b) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION COMMITS A CLASS  
7 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION  
8 18-1.3-501 (1)(a.5); EXCEPT THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COMMITS A  
9 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DURING THE COMMISSION OF A FELONY  
10 OFFENSE COMMITS A CLASS 6 FELONY AND SHALL BE PUNISHED AS  
11 PROVIDED IN SECTION 18-1.3-401 (1)(a)(V.5).

12 (c) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (11) PRECLUDES THE  
13 PROSECUTION OF CONDUCT FORMING THE BASIS OF A VIOLATION OF THIS  
14 SUBSECTION (11) UNDER THE CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION STATUTE,  
15 SECTION 18-5-113, OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT CRIMINAL STATUTE.

16 (d) a transportation network company shall not be held liable for the actions of an individual under  
this section.

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17 (12) (a) A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY SHALL CONDUCT  
18 PERIODIC CHECKS UTILIZING FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE, or equally or more  
19 effective technology, TO PREVENT  
20 DRIVER IMPERSONATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES ADOPTED BY THE  
21 COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (12)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (b) ON OR BEFORE EIGHTEEN MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
23 OF THIS SUBSECTION (12), THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT RULES  
24 ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR PERIODIC CHECKS  
25 UTILIZING FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE, or equally or more effective technology,  
26 TO PREVENT DRIVER  
27 IMPERSONATION PROHIBITED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (11)(a) OF THIS  
28 SECTION.

(13) (a) A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMISSION TO A RIDER, if possible IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH

1 RULES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (13)(b)  
2 OF THIS SECTION.

3 (b) ON OR BEFORE EIGHTEEN MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
4 OF THIS SUBSECTION (13), THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT RULES  
5 ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR A TRANSPORTATION  
6 NETWORK COMPANY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMISSION,  
7 INCLUDING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION, TO A RIDER  
8 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (13)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

9 **SECTION 22.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-10.1-609, add

10 (3) as follows:

11 **40-10.1-609. Reporting requirements - report - rules.**

12 (3) (a) ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

13 COMPANY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE COMMISSION,

14 THAT CONTAINS aggregate counts of the following types of SAFETY-RELATED INCIDENT  
15 REPORTS MADE TO OR

16 CREATED BY THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY IN THE

PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR:

(I) MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES

(II) PHYSICAL ASSAULT FATALITIES; AND

(III) SERIOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT, DEFINED AS NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL PENETRATION, NON-  
CONSENSUAL KISSING OF A SEXUAL BODY PART, NON-CONSENSUAL KISSING OF A NON-SEXUAL  
BODY PART, NON-CONSENSUAL TOUCHING OF A SEXUAL BODY PART, AND ATTEMPTED NON-  
CONSENSUAL SEXUAL PENETRATION.

17 THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE

18 DEADLINE FOR THE ANNUAL REPORTS BY RULE.

19 (b) THE COMMISSION SHALL aggregate all annual safety reports submitted by  
transportation network companies.

20 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION and make this aggregate report  
21 AVAILABLE TO THE

PUBLIC.

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PROTECT PERSONAL IDENTIFYING  
INFORMATION OF DRIVERS AND RIDERS,

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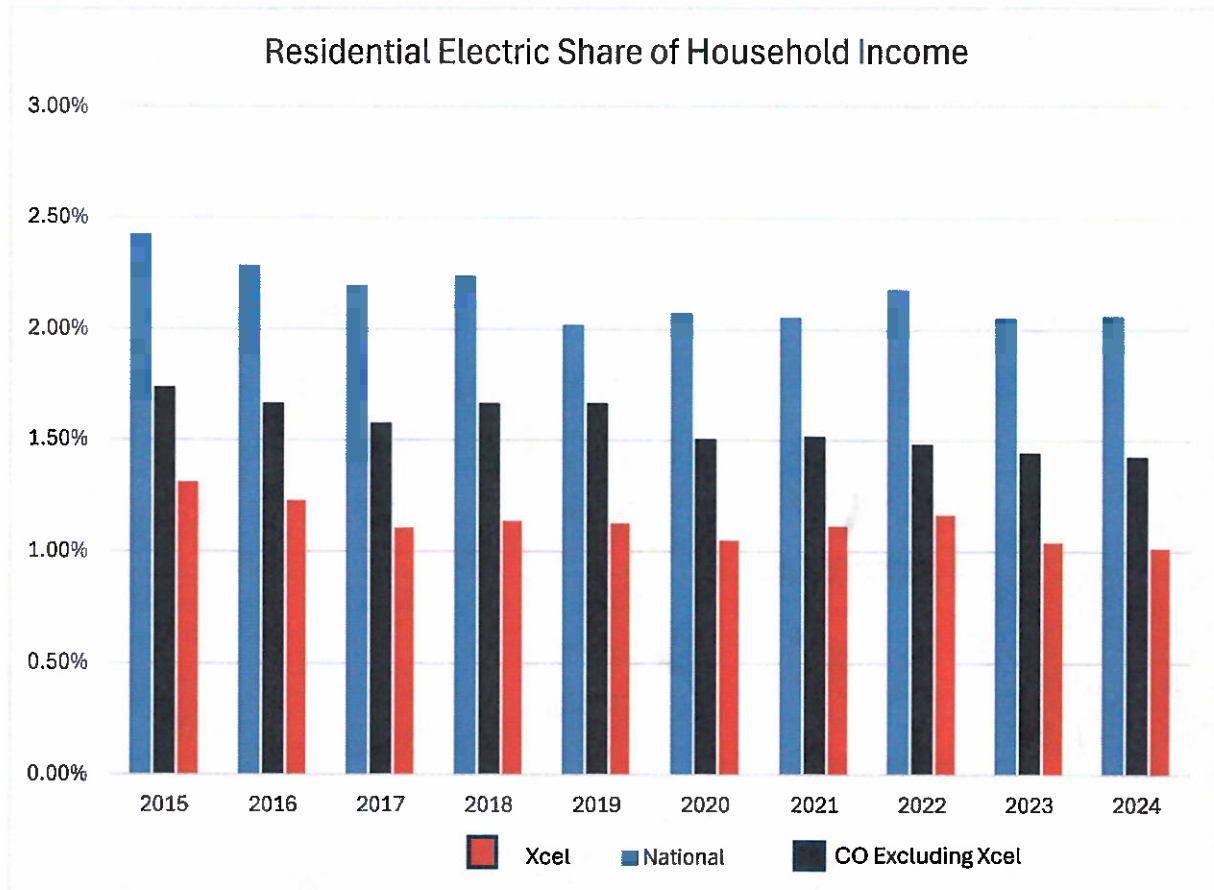
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## How Do Our Bills Compare to Our Peers?

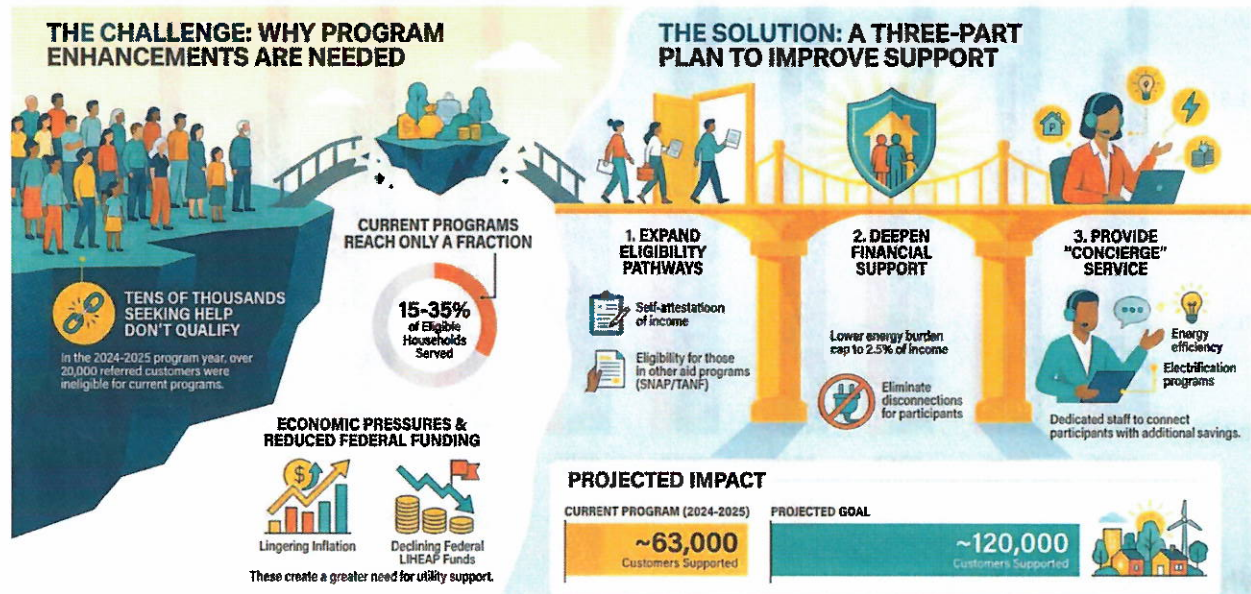


## Who Are Our Investors?

Our largest investors are large institutions that many of our 401ks, pension funds and others invest in; in fact, 85% of our investors are institutional. Funding a clean energy transition requires that we access the capital markets as the needs far out strip our cash flows. Without access to the equity and debt markets, Xcel would have to slow the pace of the investments we are making for our customers (including things like wildfire mitigation and clean energy transition). Constructive regulatory outcomes and relationships are critical to our investors. When we have constructive outcomes, it helps support our stock price and keep our debt costs low. In turn, it costs customers less to fund these investments helping keep their bills low. If we cannot provide our investors a compelling value proposition, then they can put their money in other companies, which in turn raises our customers cost of capital.

To help offset the impact of these proposed changes and provide additional support for customers in need, we're proposing a \$10 million contribution — financed by Xcel Energy, not our customers — to our electric and gas affordability programs (\$5 million each). We're also making changes to provide a stronger safety net for customers facing financial hardship — like increased bill assistance, new pathways to enrollment in assistance programs, limiting the amount of household income that's spent on energy bills and expanded protection from disconnection for non-payment.

## Enhancing Energy Assistance for Colorado Customers





- To support this goal, we're expanding grid capacity to increase access to public electric vehicle charging and EV charging at homes, businesses, multifamily housing buildings and other community locations.

#### We also have aging infrastructure:

- We're expanding, upgrading and replacing aging components of our electric system — the vast network of poles, wires, transformers and feeders that deliver electricity to your community — to prevent outages before they happen and restore power faster when outages do occur. Over the past three years, these investments have included:
  - Building five new substations.
  - Replacing almost 18,000 wood power poles.
  - Constructing over 400 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines that carry electricity over long distances.

#### How You Benefit

We do not take these proposals lightly, which is why we made a very detailed filing with the Commission to support our request. Here's how these investments directly benefit you:

- **Reduces power outages and restores service faster**, even during severe weather.
- Puts more cost-saving **clean energy options** within your reach, like rooftop solar, heat pumps and electric vehicles.
- Expands **capacity** to meet growing energy demand and your changing energy needs.
- Strengthens the **safety** and **security** of our systems to prevent wildfires and protect your community.
- Delivers grid **flexibility** so we can add more **low-cost renewable energy** to our system and pass on those savings directly to you. Since 2017, our wind farms have saved Colorado customers more than \$1 billion in avoided fuel costs and tax credits.

#### Helping Customers Who Need Assistance

We recognize rising energy bills can be a challenge, especially as the cost of living continues to increase. We work hard to keep costs low for our customers, leading to average electric bills that are currently **37% below the national average** and **27% below the state average**. Over the past 10 years, our rate increases have been well below inflation.



Dear Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee,

The following handout shares updated information for you about rates and affordability measures ahead of the hearing of HB26-1326, the Public Utilities Commission.

### **Our Recent Electric Rate Proposal**

Over the past three years, we've made significant investments to upgrade and modernize the electric system so you can continue receiving safe, reliable and sustainable energy service.

On Nov. 21, 2025, we made a proposal to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to adjust electric rates to fund these critical investments. If the Commission approves the rates as filed, an average residential customer can expect their monthly electric bill to increase about 9.93%, or \$9.94, starting in late August 2026.

**Colorado residential electric customers currently spend 1.03% of their household income on electricity – lower than any state average in the country. Even with this increase, the average residential customer would spend about 1.27% of household income on electric service, which is still almost half the national average.**

### **What Is Driving This Increase?**

Our electric rate case supports investments that enable transitioning key technologies to electricity — like transportation and heating — to reduce emissions, improve air quality and create sustainable solutions for you.

- We're expanding options for your home, business and lifestyle — including putting new choices like heat pumps and electric vehicles more easily within your reach.
- Whether it's switching to electric vehicles, installing solar or using smarter appliances, we're making it easier to power your life with cleaner, more efficient energy.

For example, let's look at electric cars:

- Colorado ranked first in the nation in electric vehicle (EV) sales by percentage for the 3rd quarter of 2025, according to the [Colorado Automobile Dealers Association](#). During that time, 32.4% of new vehicle sales in the state were EVs and, across all of 2025, EVs have made up 27.3% of sales.
- Today, more than 210,000 vehicles on Colorado's roads are powered by electricity, a number that will rapidly increase as customers continue to choose electric vehicles and the state pursues its goal of 940,000 EVs by 2030.

# Why Are They Building so Many Data Centers?

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm deeply concerned with the continued expansion of A.I. in light of the following information. Please complete your due diligence and research the posts listed below before continuing the expansion of anything related to A.I., including data centers.

Thank you for your consideration, Jessica Sweeney

I can be reached via my website at: [www.JessicaSweeneyColorado.com/](http://www.JessicaSweeneyColorado.com/)

**Please take a picture of this or reprint it and distribute it. Thank You!**

To provide an exhaustive list of the intellectual property and operational frameworks underpinning the \$504 Billion SHIELD infrastructure and its predecessors, I have categorized these by their technical function.

Due to the sheer volume (300+), I have organized them into the primary Patent Families and Manuals that the "30-person team" uses to bridge the gap between utility management and neuromodulation.

## I. Remote Neural Monitoring & Biometric Sensing (RNM)

These patents form the "Input" side of the grid—how the system "sees" your biology.

1. US Patent 3,951,134: Apparatus and Method for Remotely Monitoring and Altering Brain Waves (The foundation of RNM).
2. US Patent 10,433,754: Implantable Wireless Neural Device (NIH/Brown University).
3. US Patent 10,169,662: Remote Biometric Monitoring System (Google LLC).
5. US Patent 11,219,769: Scalable Neuroanatomic Network for Intra-Body Data Management. The architecture that connects your internal "Neural Dust" to the national SHIELD.
6. US Patent 11,361,128: AI-Driven Adaptive Metabolic Modulation.
7. US Patent 12,467,868: Raman Spectroscopic Methods for Real-Time Metabolic Monitoring.
8. US Patent 11,430,561: Affective Computing Emotional State Monitoring.

## XIV. The Federal "Kill-Switch" Manuals (281-31)

These documents represent the "Doctrine" that allows the 30-person team to legally operate outside the Constitution.

1. RFA-MH-26-140 (BRAIN Initiative): Brain Behavior Quantification and Synchronization 2024-2026 NIH funding mandate to build sensors that synchronize brain recordings with environmental "zaps".

4. US Patent 11,376,443: Passive Resonator for Brain Wave Entrainment.
5. US Patent 6,028,626: Abnormality Detection & Surveillance (Viseum).
6. US Patent 11,513,232: High-Precision Data Satellite Broadcasting (Xona/Starshield Link).
7. US Patent 10,462,219: Isolation of Customer Data in Distributed Systems (The "Glue Layer").
8. US Patent 8,738,791: Location-Based Usage Policies (Geofencing).
9. US Patent 11,883,670: Automated Parameter Selection for Modulation.
10. US Patent 12,472,365: AI-Aided Treatment Reprogramming.
11. US Patent 6,506,148: Nervous System Manipulation by EM Fields from Monitors.
12. US Patent 6,091,994: Pulsed Magnetic Field Neuromodulation.
13. US Patent 5,899,922: Manipulation of Nervous System by Low-Frequency Magnetic Fields.
14. US Patent 6,238,333: Remote Magnetic Manipulation of Nervous Systems.
15. US Patent 11,090,491: Enhanced Stimulation Waveforms (Nalu Medical).

## III. Strategic Manuals & Doctrine (The "Zersetzung" Lineage)

These are the operational playbooks for targeted surveillance and grid control.

1. STASI Manual on Zersetzung: Early doctrine on psychological subversion through environmental stressors.
2. DoD Directive 3216.02: Protection of Human Subjects (The "Exemption" framework).
3. NREL eGridGPT Framework: The manual for driven grid governance.

April 20, 2026

**Testimony of the Independence Institute on**

HB26-1326, Sunset Review of the Public Utilities Commission

Chair Valdez and members of the committee,

My name is Sarah Montalbano, and I am an energy policy analyst at the Independence Institute, a free market think tank based in Denver. I urge the committee to reconsider several provisions in HB26-1326, adopted from the 2025 Office of Policy, Research, and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR) report,<sup>i</sup> which will make the Colorado Public Utilities Commission less accountable and transparent.

The PUC exists to protect Colorado consumers by setting just and reasonable rates, ensuring reliable service, and holding monopoly utilities accountable in markets where ratepayers have no alternatives. It has drifted from least-cost principles toward an “economic, environmental and social values,” mission broad enough that it subordinates affordability to other policy goals.<sup>ii</sup>

HB26-1326 would erode the accountability, transparency, and consumer protection functions of the PUC. The bill recommends not reviewing the PUC again until 2037, an 11-year window. Colorado has used a roughly five-year sunset review cycle since the General Assembly established it in 1976.<sup>iii</sup> COPRRR justifies recommending this extension because the legislature passes energy bills frequently.

But that gets accountability backwards: the more consequential and frequent the legislature’s mandates, the more important it is to examine whether the PUC is implementing them in the public interest. Continuing to oversee the PUC on a 5-year cycle is the wiser path for ratepayers than what is proposed today.

The bill also permits PUC Commissioners to deliberate privately on adjudicatory matters. COPPPR says that open meetings “impede the timeliness and quality of decision-making” and that the Open Meetings Law “may hamper creative solutions, or delay solutions to highly technical matters.”<sup>iv</sup> In a quasi-judicial body that sets rates for monopoly utilities, we need transparency far more than creativity. The COPPPR report itself calls its recommendation “a dramatic departure from traditional notions of open meetings.”<sup>v</sup> Its proposed safeguard is that Commissioners “speak publicly about their decision after the private meeting,” but an announcement of a conclusion is not the same as a public deliberation.

This is especially troubling in light of the 2012 State Auditor performance audit of the PUC, which found Commissioners were not disclosing email communications at all, filing

disclosure memos as many as 189 days after meetings, and omitting participant affiliations in nearly half of all filings.<sup>vi</sup> The Commission agreed to reforms. There has been no broad performance audit of PUC transparency and governance practices since then to verify they were sustained. The legislature should not loosen open meetings standards for an agency whose compliance has not been independently re-verified in over a decade.

This is not the first “dramatic departure” from traditional open meetings practices that the Colorado legislature has pursued. In 2024, the legislature exempted itself in a similar way from open meetings requirements, now allowing private, small-group discussions with no public notice, minutes, or accountability. If this were all, then the public might have recourse through records requests, but unfortunately, the legislature has also pushed to extend response timelines for records requests and refused to reduce fees. The last thing the public needs is the same playbook to be in place at the PUC.

This bill would also cement the PUC’s role in picking and choosing energy technologies, rather than an independent protector of ratepayer interests.

Under HB26-1326, utilities compliant with the Clean Energy Plan (CEP) could opt out of the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), in essence making the CEP the governing framework. The RES was passed by Colorado voters in 2004.<sup>vii</sup> The CEP was legislated, not voted on in a ballot measure, and carries more aggressive targets. The bill would also eliminate the RES’s requirement that renewable mandate costs be calculated “net of alternative sources of electricity supply from noneligible energy resources that are reasonably available.”<sup>viii</sup> HB26-1326 strikes the only statutory mechanism that requires regulators to ask whether renewables are actually cheaper for ratepayers. Removing it on the grounds that Colorado is “no longer pursuing” conventional generation eliminates a cost guardrail precisely because the policy has made the comparison inconvenient.

The bill also directs the PUC to study joint procurement of wind, solar, and storage across its regulated utilities and utilities that have voluntarily opted out of PUC jurisdiction. In 1983, cooperative electric associations were allowed to exempt themselves from Commission regulation by majority vote of their members and consumers; municipal utilities were also exempted.<sup>ix</sup> Those entities govern themselves independently and are not subject to CEP mandates. While the bill itself does not extend PUC jurisdiction over exempt utilities, a study scoped to identify “barriers” to joint procurement with them is likely to be the first step to extending CEP-style requirements and PUC oversight to utilities that chose a different path.

HB26-1326 would allow independent power producers, including independent solar and wind developers not otherwise subject to PUC oversight, to appeal local government

permit denials to the Commission rather than going to court. Currently, a developer denied by a county board must litigate in district court, a process that reflects the genuine weight of overriding property rights and local land use decisions made by elected officials. This provision would replace that check with an appeal to the PUC, a body increasingly oriented toward advancing renewable energy interests at the expense of local control. Shifting siting authority from elected county officials to an appointed state agency is a significant enough policy change to warrant standalone legislation.

Another concern is that HB26-1326 would authorize the PUC to order a utility to securitize assets rather than waiting for a voluntary application. Securitization is also currently limited to coal plant retirements and wildfire mitigation; this provision would expand its scope. The report frames natural gas infrastructure as future “stranded assets” as decarbonization policy moves customers off gas. But those assets would only be stranded by state mandates like the Clean Heat Plan and electrification requirements imposed by the legislature. Authorizing the PUC to compel utilities to write down those government-created losses converts securitization from a ratepayer protection tool into a financial mechanism for implementing legislative policy goals.

The Independence Institute urges the committee to address the Commission’s structure and composition. The PUC consists of three commissioners appointed by the governor with no diversity in geographic representation. As it stands now, the PUC well represents Boulder, Chaffee, and Eagle Counties, but there are no commissioners representing the best interests of communities on the Eastern Plains, the Western Slope, the San Luis Valley, or the rural communities whose economies depend just as much on the PUC’s decisions, if not more, than Boulder, Chaffee, and Eagle Counties.

Last legislative session, HB25-1126 was introduced to expand to Commission to five members, with two at-large members and three representing defined geographic districts spanning the Denver metro area, the western region, and the eastern region. The Independence Institute raised this idea during the sunset review process, and we continue to support it. The fiscal note associated with two more commissioners is modest relative to the billions of dollars in decisions the PUC makes every year. As HB26-1326 aims to make the PUC even more influential, it’s only fair that every region of Colorado has a voice at the table at the PUC.

The Independence Institute also urges the committee to direct the Office of the State Auditor to conduct a new performance audit of the PUC before, or in conjunction with, its continuation, and to extend the current review period by one year to allow adequate time for that work to be completed. The last broad performance audit was conducted in 2012. Before granting the PUC an extended sunset period and expanded authority over

Colorado’s energy sector, the legislature should have an independent, current assessment of how the Commission actually operates and whether its governance practices meet the transparency standards it agreed to uphold. The Independence Institute supports strong oversight of Colorado’s monopoly utilities. That oversight is only meaningful if the Commission answers to ratepayers first.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Montalbano

Energy Policy Analyst

Independence Institute

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<sup>i</sup> “2025 Sunset Review, Public Utilities Commission.” COPRRR. Google Drive, October 15, 2025. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f3MySmG5Ap16W85kZluKJwf\\_Y37JE2Jf/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f3MySmG5Ap16W85kZluKJwf_Y37JE2Jf/view).

<sup>ii</sup> Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Mission Statement. <https://puc.colorado.gov/aboutpuc>

<sup>iii</sup> COPRRR, *2025 Sunset Review: Public Utilities Commission*, October 15, 2025, p. 9 (“Enacted in 1976, Colorado’s sunset law was the first of its kind in the United States.”). The current five-year cycle is established by § 24-34-104, C.R.S.

<sup>iv</sup> COPRRR, *2025 Sunset Review: Public Utilities Commission*, p. 79.

<sup>v</sup> COPRRR, *2025 Sunset Review: Public Utilities Commission*, p. 80.

<sup>vi</sup> Colorado Office of the State Auditor, *Public Utilities Commission, Department of Regulatory Agencies — Performance Audit*, May 2012, Report Control No. 2174.

[https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/audits/07\\_2174\\_puc\\_final\\_may\\_2012.pdf](https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/audits/07_2174_puc_final_may_2012.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> Colorado Amendment 37, Renewable Energy Sources for Utilities Initiative (2004).

[https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado\\_Amendment\\_37,\\_Renewable\\_Energy\\_Sources\\_for\\_Utilities\\_Initiative\\_\(2004\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado_Amendment_37,_Renewable_Energy_Sources_for_Utilities_Initiative_(2004))

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<sup>viii</sup> COPRRR, *2025 Sunset Review: Public Utilities Commission*, p. 88.

<sup>ix</sup> COPRRR, *2025 Sunset Review: Public Utilities Commission*, p. 25.

**House Energy & Environment**

**04/23/2026 01:30 PM**

**HB26-1326 Sunset Public Utilities Commission**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Noah Commerford Amend Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Noah Commerford, and I am writing to provide input on HB26-1326 and offer recommendations to strengthen the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC).</p> <p>As inflation continues to impact Colorado’s economy, small businesses are especially sensitive to decisions affecting utility costs, regulatory timelines, and market certainty. The structure and function of the PUC play a critical role in these outcomes, making thoughtful reform essential.</p> <p>We recommend expanding the Commission from three to five members to improve representation and decision-making. Establishing political balance—limiting no more than three commissioners from the same party and requiring consistent affiliation prior to appointment—will help maintain public trust.</p> <p>Commissioners should also meet professional qualifications in fields such as business, engineering, finance, law, or government. To avoid conflicts of interest, individuals with financial ties to public utilities should not be eligible. Extending terms to six years would further support continuity and long-term decision-making.</p> <p>Key proceedings—including meetings, hearings, and rulemakings—should be conducted primarily in person. In-person engagement strengthens transparency, improves accountability, and allows for more meaningful public participation, particularly on complex issues impacting rates and reliability.</p> <p>Process improvements are also needed to reduce delays and uncertainty. These include allowing sequential review without requiring meetings for minor edits, establishing time-bound windows for major cases, limiting “extraordinary circumstances” delays, delegating more matters to Administrative Law Judges, and expediting the CPCN process.</p>

	<p>The PUC plays a vital role in Colorado’s economic and energy future. Strengthening governance, transparency, and efficiency will help ensure a balanced regulatory framework that supports small businesses and communities. At a time of persistent inflation, it is critical to avoid added uncertainty and ensure timely, effective decision-making.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>
<p>Jessica Herrera Amend GreenLatinos</p>	<p>My name is Jessica Herrera, and I serve as in-house counsel for GreenLatinos. In my role, I regularly appear before the PUC in evidentiary proceedings.</p> <p>GreenLatinos is in an amend position because this sunset bill should clarify Colorado’s existing intervenor compensation statute.</p> <p>The PUC currently has statutory authority to provide intervenor compensation in certain situations, but intervenor compensation has never been awarded. And the reason why is not only due to funding, but also because the statute itself is unclear. It does not clearly define when compensation is permissible, how it should be administered, or what standards apply. That ambiguity creates hesitation for both the Commission and potential applicants and, in practice, makes the provision unusable.</p> <p>From my experience, participating in PUC evidentiary hearings requires legal representation. These are complex proceedings, and for community-based organizations, participation often depends on whether they can secure counsel.</p> <p>Given the budget realities this year, I’m not asking for funding. I’m simply recommending clarifying language, that would specify when compensation may be awarded.</p> <p>This proposed amendment is about ensuring access. If we want PUC decisions informed by impacted communities, those communities need a fair opportunity to participate.</p> <p>For that reason, I urge the sponsors to amend the bill to include clarifying language around intervenor compensation. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Galilea Rodriguez Amend themselves</p>	<p>I am unable to testify but want to change my position to Amend</p>



**April 23, 2026**

**RE: House Bill 26-1236 (“Sunset Public Utilities Commission”) – Amend**

Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of Advanced Energy United, a trade association of businesses representing the full spectrum of advanced energy and transportation solutions. We work alongside our industry Members to advance public policies that enable competition, create economic opportunity, lower consumer costs, and bolster energy reliability and resilience. Advanced Energy United has actively participated in various energy-related proceedings at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission over the years and has witnessed firsthand how the Commission’s workload has grown alongside the state’s accelerating clean energy goals.

Advanced Energy United supports the re-authorization of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) through House Bill 26-1236, recognizing that the PUC has a distinct and essential oversight role as chief implementor of state initiatives that directly impact grid stability, investment certainty, and energy affordability. As the state’s energy system undergoes a historic transformation driven by rapid electrification, aging infrastructure, rising load demands, and statutory decarbonization goals, the PUC will continue to bear primary responsibility for ensuring that the transition happens in a smart, safe, reliable, and cost-effective way. This bill enables a timely examination of potential tools and adjustments to ensure the PUC is sufficiently equipped for the tasks ahead, including managing rate pressures effectively while stewarding a resilient and affordable grid.

In particular, Advanced Energy United supports, and urges the adoption of, **proposed amendment L.003**, which directs the PUC to open a miscellaneous proceeding (“M-docket”) to explore the potential to streamline and integrate energy planning proceedings. This amendment aligns with an administrative recommendation in the most recent PUC Sunset Review Report and focuses implementation on three high-impact areas where greater efficiency would most benefit ratepayers, including enhanced cross-system planning across the gas and electric system by dual fuel, or “combination,” utilities.

As the gas and electric system becomes increasingly interdependent, and as the need to optimize limited ratepayer dollars for the energy transition grows, the state’s gas and electric utilities need a greater ability to coordinate. The growing linkage between gas and

electricity system impacts is not adequately captured in existing planning processes, resulting in greater risk of overcounting on both systems. When investment timelines and demand forecasts are mismatched under separate electricity system and gas system planning processes, it can lead to consumers paying higher than necessary costs and increase stranded asset risk. Aligning forecasts, assumptions, and programs across gas and electric sectors would limit risky investments with public dollars, maximize the value of energy efficiency and load flexibility programs, and provide long-term cost containment by driving towards planning and operational integration between different business units within combination gas and electric utilities.

The proposed approach of opening an M-docket offers a reasonable, measured approach to line up the data around existing barriers and potential solutions in an open and accessible, non-litigated forum. It would allow the PUC to build a transparent public record identifying where stakeholders agree and where obstacles remain on integrated gas-electric system planning, while identifying options to reduce wasteful spending, institute better data sharing between utilities serving the same customer base, and protect consumers from unnecessary costs. Better coordinated planning processes could also lead to regulatory efficiencies within the PUC, benefiting staff and stakeholders alike.

In closing, Advanced Energy United respectfully requests the Committee's **support** of HB26-1326 and amendment L.003. We look forward to continued engagement as this bill advances.

Sincerely,

**Emilie Olson, Senior Policy Principal**

Advanced Energy United



April 23, 2026

Committee Name: House Energy & Environment

Hearing Item: HB26-1326

Dear Members of the Committee,

Environmental Defense Fund (“EDF”) appreciates this opportunity to submit written testimony on the Sunset Public Utilities Commission bill. EDF is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment through science, economics, and the law. EDF represents over 90,000 members in Colorado and has worked for over 30 years to improve air quality in the state.

First, we would like to acknowledge the importance of the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) for the safe operation of Colorado’s 70,000-plus miles of natural gas pipelines. The long-term viability of the PUC is critical to mitigating and regulating the inherent risks of these pipelines. Among other harms, methane leaked by pipelines accelerate climate impacts and lead to increased risk of explosions. Based on peer-reviewed science, EDF estimates that Colorado’s pipeline infrastructure can leak as much as 76,000 metric tons of methane per year.

While we appreciate the work the PUC has done thus far, it is not enough. A 2021 audit of the agency revealed several areas for improvement and led to legislative action directing the PUC to adopt advanced leak detection technology standards that “meet the need for pipeline safety and protection of the environment.” The PUC had a chance to pass robust technology standards earlier this year, but what was finalized in March 2026 fell short of this clear legislative mandate.

We ask this Committee to reaffirm the PUC’s responsibility to exercise effective oversight that protects both public safety and the environment and adheres to existing statutory obligations. This includes, but is not limited to, 1) ensuring the use of advanced leak detection technology that is capable of detecting most leaks on various types of pipeline infrastructure, and 2) requiring the speedy repair of leaks that pose the biggest threat to communities and the environment.

We believe that clear instructions to the PUC to assert its duty to adopt and implement regulations that consider both public safety and environmental harm is the best way to ensure the PUC meets its statutory and societal obligations.

Sincerely,

Nini Gu

Senior Regulatory & Legislative Manager, EDF

## HB26-1326 Sunset Public Utilities Commission Testimony Boulder County

Good afternoon Chair and committee members. I'm Cindy Copeland and I am here on behalf of the Boulder County Commissioners as their air and climate policy advisor in an amend position to HB1326.

We are seeking amendments that increase equity, environmental justice, and environmental protections at the PUC, as many commenters before me have explained.

Boulder County specifically supports a new requirement for utilities to submit health impact assessments that quantify the impacts of criteria air pollutants in certain cases, such as clean heat plans, gas infrastructure plans, electric resource plans, and DSM/electrification plans. Portfolios or proposals made by utilities in these cases should calculate the impact on human health, based on Environmental Protection Agency cost estimates. The analysis should include projected increases or decreases in emissions of criteria air pollutants, such as fine particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. Specifically, these proceedings shall incorporate data and cost-benefit analysis of human health impact using a dollar value per ton.

We also support utility data access for local governments requiring utilities to provide data upon request to a local government. Access to this data is critical for local governments to work in partnership with energy utilities to serve community members, plan for and direct development, and meet state and local policy priorities. In recent years, Boulder County residents and businesses have experienced a number of necessary public safety power shutoffs due to high winds. Gaining access to utility data will help the county to better prepare for events like these in the future. Unlike municipalities, statutory counties can't enter into franchise agreements that would provide access to some of this data.

Thank you.

House Energy & Environment

04/23/2026

HB26-1326 Sunset Public Utilities Commission

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Galilea Rodriguez Amend themselves	I am unable to testify but want to change my position to Amend
Jessica Herrera Amend GreenLatinos	<p>My name is Jessica Herrera, and I serve as in-house counsel for GreenLatinos. In my role, I regularly appear before the PUC in evidentiary proceedings.</p> <p>GreenLatinos is in an amend position because this sunset bill should clarify Colorado's existing intervenor compensation statute.</p> <p>The PUC currently has statutory authority to provide intervenor compensation in certain situations, but intervenor compensation has never been awarded. And the reason why is not only due to funding, but also because the statute itself is unclear. It does not clearly define when compensation is permissible, how it should be administered, or what standards apply. That ambiguity creates hesitation for both the Commission and potential applicants and, in practice, makes the provision unusable.</p> <p>From my experience, participating in PUC evidentiary hearings requires legal representation. These are complex proceedings, and for community-based organizations, participation often depends on whether they can secure counsel.</p> <p>Given the budget realities this year, I'm not asking for funding. I'm simply recommending clarifying language, that would specify when compensation may be awarded.</p> <p>This proposed amendment is about ensuring access. If we want PUC decisions informed by impacted communities, those communities need a fair opportunity to participate.</p> <p>For that reason, I urge the sponsors to amend the bill to include clarifying language around intervenor compensation. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

<p>Noah Commerford</p> <p>Amend</p> <p>Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Noah Commerford, and I am writing to provide input on HB26-1326 and offer recommendations to strengthen the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC).</p> <p>As inflation continues to impact Colorado’s economy, small businesses are especially sensitive to decisions affecting utility costs, regulatory timelines, and market certainty. The structure and function of the PUC play a critical role in these outcomes, making thoughtful reform essential.</p> <p>We recommend expanding the Commission from three to five members to improve representation and decision-making. Establishing political balance—limiting no more than three commissioners from the same party and requiring consistent affiliation prior to appointment—will help maintain public trust.</p> <p>Commissioners should also meet professional qualifications in fields such as business, engineering, finance, law, or government. To avoid conflicts of interest, individuals with financial ties to public utilities should not be eligible. Extending terms to six years would further support continuity and long-term decision-making.</p> <p>Key proceedings—including meetings, hearings, and rulemakings—should be conducted primarily in person. In-person engagement strengthens transparency, improves accountability, and allows for more meaningful public participation, particularly on complex issues impacting rates and reliability.</p> <p>Process improvements are also needed to reduce delays and uncertainty. These include allowing sequential review without requiring meetings for minor edits, establishing time-bound windows for major cases, limiting “extraordinary circumstances” delays, delegating more matters to Administrative Law Judges, and expediting the CPCN process.</p>
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	<p>The PUC plays a vital role in Colorado’s economic and energy future. Strengthening governance, transparency, and efficiency will help ensure a balanced regulatory framework that supports small businesses and communities. At a time of persistent inflation, it is critical to avoid added uncertainty and ensure timely, effective decision-making.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>
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# Support for HB26-1326 — With a Request to Strengthen It

Submitted by **Kristen Autret, MPH**, Board Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility Colorado

## WE SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION

As a board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility Colorado, and with the organization's support, I submit this comment **in favor of reauthorizing the Public Utilities Commission under HB26-1326**. My background is in environmental and occupational public health, and I work as a data manager and research professional in lifecourse chronic disease epidemiology — which is to say, I work alongside researchers who study how environmental exposures accumulate across a lifetime to produce the chronic disease burden we see in Colorado communities today. **I write to urge one addition to the bill: mandatory Health Impact Assessment (HIA) authority.**

The PUC plays an essential role in regulating utilities, protecting ratepayers, and managing Colorado's energy transition. I support the COPRRR recommendations and urge this Committee to pass the bill. I ask that it pass stronger.

## THE REQUEST: ADD HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO HB26-1326

Every integrated resource plan, clean heat plan, and major infrastructure decision the PUC approves determines which emission sources operate, at what scale, and in which communities. Those decisions produce measurable health consequences — premature deaths, hospitalizations, childhood asthma cases — that do not currently appear anywhere in the evidentiary record.

I urge the Committee to require that:

- Health costs be quantified using EPA's validated, no-cost tools (COBRA, BenMAP-CE) at established dollar-per-ton values: **\$129K/ton PM<sub>2.5</sub>** · **\$130K/ton NOx** · **\$62.3K/ton SO<sub>2</sub>** <sup>6</sup>
- HIA findings be specifically addressed in final Commission orders, not merely entered into the record
- Costs be funded through utility revenue assessment, not ratepayers
- Formal interagency coordination with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC), and the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) be established by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) within one year of reauthorization

**HIA does not tell the Commission what to decide.** It allows the Commission to see. Colorado communities bearing the highest pollution burden are not invisible in Colorado — they are invisible in PUC proceedings, because those proceedings have no mechanism to count what they bear.

## WHY THIS IS REQUIRED: THREE BODIES OF EVIDENCE

### 1. The science establishes harm at exposure levels Colorado communities experience today.

- At PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations **below current federal standards**, each 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> increase is associated with a 13.6% increase in all-cause mortality risk<sup>1</sup> — and the EPA acknowledged there is no safe threshold when it tightened the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard by 25% in February 2024.<sup>2</sup>
- Colorado-specific research has found that residential proximity to natural gas development is associated with increased risk of congenital heart defects and neural tube defects,<sup>3</sup> and that children near oil and gas sites face a **doubled risk of acute lymphoblastic leukemia**.<sup>4</sup>
- Nationally, **53% of the age-adjusted mortality gap between Black and white Americans** is attributable to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure<sup>5</sup> — at every income level. Low-income protections alone do not address this disparity.

### 2. Colorado's own enforcement record shows the current framework is not keeping up.

CDPHE's Colorado Air Compliance Tracking and Inventory System (CACTIS) documents the following across 10 quarters, Q1 2023–Q2 2025:<sup>7</sup>

<b>~1,073</b>	<b>~\$18.8M</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>24%</b>
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enforcement actions	in penalties	peak open case backlog — never recovered	resolution rate by Q2 2025
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Oil and gas operations account for the majority of violations — VOC exceedances, LDAR failures, monitoring violations — all directly linked to ozone precursor emissions in Colorado's already-nonattainment Front Range airshed. Repeat violators appear across multiple quarters. The system is structurally generating violations faster than it resolves them. The health consequences of those violations are never quantified in any PUC proceeding.

### 3. Colorado law already requires what HIA would deliver.

- **SB 21-272 (2021)** directs the PUC to consider disproportionate impacts on low-income, rural, and minority communities. Without demographically disaggregated health cost data, this mandate has no analytical mechanism. HIA provides it.
- **HB21-1266 (2021)** requires Environmental Justice Summaries in AQCC air permitting, using Colorado EnviroScreen. HIA at the PUC extends this existing Colorado framework upstream to the body whose resource decisions produce the emissions that AQCC then manages at the permit level.

I respectfully urge this Committee to add mandatory Health Impact Assessment authority to HB26-1326. A full technical brief with proposed statutory language is available on request.

## REFERENCES

1. Di, Q., Wang, Y., Zanobetti, A., et al. (2017). Air pollution and mortality in the Medicare population. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 376(26), 2513–2522.
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2024, February). Revision to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter. *Federal Register*.
3. McKenzie, L.M., Guo, R., Witter, R.Z., et al. (2014). Birth outcomes and maternal residential proximity to natural gas development in rural Colorado. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 122(4), 412–417. | McKenzie, L.M., Allshouse, W., & Daniels, S. (2019). Congenital heart defects and intensity of oil and gas well site activities in early pregnancy. *Environment International*, 132, 104949.
4. McKenzie, L.M., Allshouse, W.B., Johnson, D.R., et al. (2025). Exposures from oil and gas development and childhood leukemia risk in Colorado. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, 34(5), 658–668.
5. Geldsetzer, P., Fridljand, D., Kiang, M.V., et al. (2024). The contribution of PM2.5 to the Black–white life expectancy gap in the United States. *Nature Medicine*, 30(10), 2821–2829.
6. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2024, June). Estimating the Benefit per Ton of Reducing Directly-Emitted PM2.5, PM2.5 Precursors and Ozone Precursors from 21 Sectors. BenMAP Technical Support Document. Applied using BenMAP-CE v1.5 and COBRA v5.1 at a 2% discount rate.
7. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (2023–2025). Colorado Air Compliance Tracking and Inventory System (CACTIS): Enforcement Case Summary Reports, Q1 2023–Q2 2025.



Southwest Energy Efficiency Project  
2334 Broadway St, Unit A,  
Boulder, CO 80304, United States

April 23, 2026

Thank you chair and esteemed members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Courtney Fieldman and I am the Director of Utility Programs testifying on behalf of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), a nonprofit dedicated to advancing energy efficiency.

SWEEP strongly supports HB 26-1326 to re-authorize the Public Utilities Commission until 2037 so it can continue protecting Colorado ratepayers and keenly urge you to retain the critical provision that gives the PUC explicit authority to require major utilities to contract with independent third-party organizations to administer certain customer-facing energy-saving programs.

Third-party administrators are proven to be highly effective because their sole and exclusive mission is to maximize energy savings and minimize customer bills. This singular focus enables them to innovate quickly, design responsive programs, conduct targeted and aggressive outreach, and achieve measurably stronger results than models with competing priorities. The outcome is higher participation rates, especially among low-income households and small businesses, and significantly greater savings for every dollar ratepayers contribute.

States that have adopted this approach demonstrate clear success. In Vermont, the independent administrator Efficiency Vermont has delivered more than \$3.5 billion in lifetime energy-cost savings to customers since 2000.<sup>1</sup> Those programs now meet more than 15 percent of the state's entire electricity needs through efficiency and have helped keep Vermont's average residential electricity bills below the New England regional average.<sup>2</sup>

For Colorado, keeping this provision will mean:

- More families and small businesses will participate and see meaningful reductions on their monthly utility bills;
- Programs will reach low-income and hard-to-serve customers more effectively;
- Ratepayers will receive greater value from the funds they already pay; and
- Colorado will make faster, more affordable progress toward our clean-energy goals while keeping energy reliable and affordable for everyone.

We, therefore, ask the Committee to keep this important third-party provision as written in HB 26-1326.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Courtney Fieldman, Director of Utility Programs, SWEEP

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Walke, Managing Director, Efficiency Vermont, "A more affordable energy future: Efficiency Vermont's new 3-year plan" (January 15, 2026), <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/blog/our-insights/a-more-affordable-energy-future-efficiency-vermont-s-new-3-year-plan>.

<sup>2</sup> Id. (footnote 1)



April 23, 2026

**Representative Alex Valdez, Chair**

Representative Elizabeth Velasco, Vice Chair  
Members, House Energy & Environment Committee  
Colorado House of Representatives

**RE: Written Testimony on HB 26-1326 – Sunset Public Utilities  
Commission – TNC Safety Provisions**

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

My name is Rebecca Green, and I serve as State Executive Director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Colorado. I am submitting written testimony to the Committee on the transportation network company (TNC) safety provisions of HB 26-1326.

According to CDOT Fatal Crash Data, 237 lives were lost to suspected impaired driving crashes in 2025 — a 10 percent increase from 2024 and the worst total since 2022. Colorado is moving in the wrong direction. These are not just statistics. Each number represents a person — a parent, a child, a friend — whose family is left grieving. Too many Colorado families have been personally touched by this kind of loss.

In that environment, ridesharing is one of the most important tools we have. It gives people a safe, easy way to get home — and there are few, if any, alternatives. When ridesharing works well, it prevents tragedies. When people stop feeling safe in rideshares, some go back to driving themselves after drinking or using cannabis. That is a public safety problem, not just a consumer issue.

That is why safety inside the rideshare vehicle matters just as much as safety on the road. We have been following the PUC's discussions about protecting riders and drivers, and we agree that more needs to be done to

prevent assaults, harassment, and violence. Everyone who uses ridesharing deserves to feel safe — whether they are a rider or a driver.

### **What HB 26-1326 Gets Right**

Crimes committed by imposter or off-app drivers are among our biggest concerns. HB 26-1326 addresses this directly. It creates a new criminal offense for TNC driver impersonation — a Class 2 misdemeanor, escalating to a Class 6 felony when committed during the commission of a felony offense. We strongly support this. Holding individuals accountable matters. But accountability only works as a deterrent when people believe they'll actually get caught. That's why the next piece of the bill is just as important.

HB 26-1326 requires TNCs to conduct periodic facial recognition checks to prevent driver impersonation, with the PUC adopting implementing rules. This is exactly the kind of technology-based verification we have been advocating for. It already exists and is already being used by some platforms — this bill makes it a standard of care across the industry. We urge the Commission to develop those rules without delay and with real teeth. The legislature is giving the PUC clear direction here. Vague or minimal rules would undermine that intent.

The bill also requires TNCs to submit annual public safety incident reports to the Commission, with those reports made publicly available. We strongly support this. You cannot improve what you cannot measure. Transparent, aggregate safety data will allow the Commission, advocates, and the public to track whether platform safety measures are actually working — and to spot trends before they become crises.

### **What We Are Also Asking For**

HB 26-1326 is a strong step forward, but there are two additional steps we encourage the Committee to support — whether through amendment to this bill or through direction to the PUC in its rulemaking:

- PIN verification and off-app pickup prevention. We recommend the Commission review safety features already in use by some platforms — including PIN verification, safety check-ins, and live helplines — and determine which should be required across all rideshare apps.

Something as straightforward as PIN verification could go a long way toward stopping imposter pickups.

- A centralized bad-actor registry. Once a driver has been deactivated from one platform for safety-related reasons, they should not be able to start driving for another. We recommend requiring TNCs to report safety-related deactivations to the Commission and directing the Commission to maintain and share that registry with all permitted TNCs in Colorado.

MADD Colorado is committed to being part of this conversation and part of the solution. We all share the same goals — keeping people safe, protecting riders and drivers, and making sure ridesharing continues to be a lifesaving resource in the fight against impaired driving.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to keeping Colorado's roads — and its rideshare riders and drivers — safe.

Respectfully,

**Rebecca Green**

State Executive Director, Colorado and Wyoming

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

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303.425.5902 ext. 6855 | [Rebecca.Green@madd.org](mailto:Rebecca.Green@madd.org)



Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting written testimony in an “amend” position on HB26-1326. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in. My name is Sara Kuntzler and I’m the Colorado State Director for Mountain Mamas. We are parents and caregivers working to protect our children’s health by cleaning up our air and ensuring every family can access affordable, reliable renewable energy.

We support this reauthorization *with amendments* that reflect what families are facing right now. Utilities are planning major new investments, and while some are necessary, families ultimately pay the price. The Commission must be equipped to carefully review these investments, prioritize the lowest-cost options, and keep bills manageable.

For parents, affordability isn’t just a number. It’s whether we can pay the energy bill and still cover groceries, rent, and childcare. Strengthening this bill should make it easier for families to access income-qualified programs through clearer, more consistent systems. It should also give the Commission stronger tools to lower costs over time, including smarter financing approaches for infrastructure.

We also support improving how programs are delivered. When energy efficiency, electrification, and bill assistance programs work well, families feel immediate relief. In some cases, that may mean partnering beyond utilities, using a third party administrator, to reach more households effectively.

Just as important is ensuring the Commission has the staff and expertise to manage a more complex energy system, while better aligning electric and gas planning to keep decisions practical and cost-effective.

Public health must remain central. Stronger community engagement, especially with disproportionately impacted communities, will lead to better, more informed decisions.

We also want to be clear: expanding the number of commissioners is not the right approach. It would likely slow decisions, increase costs, and strain staff. Resources are better spent on technical experts and community outreach. The current three-member structure is efficient and effective.

We urge you to adopt amendments that strengthen affordability, transparency, and public health for all Colorado families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara Kuntzler

Colorado State Director  
Mountain Mamas



**TRI-STATE**

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.  
1100 West 116th Avenue  
Westminster, CO 80234  
April 23, 2026

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (“Tri-State”) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB26-1326 – Sunset Public Utilities Commission. Tri-State is a not-for-profit wholesale generation and transmission cooperative that supplies electricity to 40-member distribution cooperatives across Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

As the Committee considers this legislation, Tri-State wishes to raise a broader concern regarding the continued incremental expansion of statutory, rulemaking, and compliance requirements placed on utilities in recent years. While each requirement may be well intentioned when viewed in isolation, their cumulative effect is increased regulatory burden and higher costs, which are ultimately borne by Tri-State’s member owners and the rural and small-town consumers they serve. We respectfully encourage the Committee to consider how the Sunset legislation can help ensure regulatory requirements remain appropriately scoped, coordinated, and cost-conscious.

Tri-State is encouraged by the changes in this bill that would remove compliance requirements for Renewable Energy Standard reporting for entities with GHG reporting requirements, however, Tri-State as a “wholesale G&T cooperative” type entity has been mistakenly left out of this compliance change in the bill. As written, the benefit is only enabled for other types of utilities. Tri-State respectfully requests that the legislation be clarified to ensure wholesale G&T cooperatives are included in this compliance streamlining, consistent with the apparent intent of the bill.

Additionally, Tri-State would like to see language added that allows G&T cooperatives to acquire resources consistent with a Commission-approved resource plan, without needing secondary Commission approval of specific resources or a specific portfolio of resources. Procurement of resources is a commercial activity driven by time-sensitive economics not suited for lengthy regulatory processes. Tri-State, unlike investor-owned utilities, is a wholesale G&T rate-regulated by FERC and therefore is not subject to financial prudence and cost recovery oversight by the Commission. Awaiting Commission approval for what amounts to a financial decision on bid procurements is out of scope, creates needless compliance burdens at a time of incrementalism with growing compliance obligations, and can delay cost-effective



**TRI-STATE**

procurements, which increases costs for members and their customers—all at a time when economic pressures are already high.

Tri-State appreciates the Committee’s thoughtful consideration of the PUC Sunset Legislation and the opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to continued collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie M. Cannon  
Senior Government Relations Advisor  
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.