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May 5, 2026

House Finance Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Chair Lindstedt, Vice-Chair Titone, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elyse Schupak and I am a policy advocate with Public Citizen, a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization working to advance the public interest in government, with over 29,000 members and supporters in Colorado. **I am testifying in support of S.B. 155 to create the Strengthen Colorado Homes Enterprise.**

Escalating climate disasters, including wildfires and severe convective storms, are driving up insurance costs and reducing insurance availability in Colorado. Between 2021 and 2024, property insurance costs in the state increased by 27 percent, outpacing inflation by 14 percent.¹ In some geographies, standard insurance is entirely unavailable due to insurer retreat from climate-vulnerable areas. The rising cost of property insurance is creating financial strain for many homeowners. Research published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas found that rising property insurance costs are driving up household indebtedness as well as mortgage and credit card delinquencies.²

The insurance industry's approach of managing growing climate-related losses through rate increases and retreat has proved profitable for insurers. In 2024, the insurance industry took in \$25 billion in underwriting profit and \$164 billion in investment income.³ The property

¹ Sharon Cornelissen et al., Overburdened: The Dramatic Increase in Homeowners Insurance Premiums and its Impacts on American Homeowners, The Consumer Federation of America (April 2025), <https://consumerfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/OverburdenedReport.pdf>.

² Shan Ge, Stephanie Johnson, and Nitzan Tzur-Ilan, Climate Risk, Insurance Premiums, and the Effects on Mortgage and Credit Outcomes, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (Jan. 2025), <https://www.dallasfed.org/-/media/documents/research/papers/2025/wp2505.pdf>.

³ Kenny Stancil, Don't Let Home Insurers Fool You. They're More Profitable Than Ever, The Revolving Door Project (July 14, 2025), <https://therevolvingdoorproject.org/mapping-the-home-insurance-crisis-underwriting-profits/>.

insurance industry had another windfall year in 2025. S&P Global estimates insurers made nearly \$60 billion in underwriting profit last year.⁴

But continued rate increases and retreat will not support viable property insurance markets over the long-term. Insurance companies, instead, should invest in building climate resilience that will reduce losses in the event of a disaster and keep properties insurable.

S.B. 155 will create the Strengthen Colorado Homes Enterprise. The enterprise will have the authority to collect an annual fee from insurance companies, equaling 0.5 percent of revenue collected on multiperil homeowner's insurance lines, and distribute the collected fees to homeowners as grants for resilient roof retrofits.

The rise of severe convective storms in Colorado, with an estimated 1.5 million homes in the state at risk of hail damage, heightens the need and urgency of widespread roof fortification.⁵ The Division of Insurance finds that hail risk is responsible for 26-54 percent of Colorado homeowners' insurance premiums, and hail mitigation has the potential to save consumers \$82–\$387 per year.⁶ FORTIFIED roof upgrades have a proven track record of success across perils, including high wind and hail. A study of insurance claims and payments in Alabama following Hurricane Sally in 2020 found that homes with FORTIFIED roofs had at least 55 percent lower claim frequency and 15 percent lower claim severity than homes with standard roofs.⁷

The Strengthen Colorado Homes Grant Program will be particularly valuable to low- and moderate-income homeowners who do not have the ability to make up-front investments in climate resilience but would benefit most from reductions in climate damages and costs over the long-term.

Public Citizen urges the committee to support S.B. 155. Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Elyse Schupak
Policy Advocate
Public Citizen

⁴ Jean Eaglesham, The Uproar Over Affordability Is Coming for Insurers, The Wall Street Journal (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/finance/the-uproar-over-affordability-is-coming-for-insurers-3a85723a?>

⁵ Risk Report 2026: Severe Convective Storms, Cotality (Mar. 24, 2026), <https://www.cotality.com/resources/reports/2026-cotality-severe-convective-storm-risk-report>.

⁶ Hail is the Number One Cost Driver of Insurance in Colorado, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies Division of Insurance, https://doi.colorado.gov/sites/doi/files/documents/DOI_Hail_One_Pager.pdf.

⁷ Performance of IBHS FORTIFIED Home™ Construction in Hurricane Sally, Alabama Department of Insurance & Center for Risk and Insurance Research, University of Alabama (May 5, 2025), <https://aldoi.gov/PDF/News/PerformanceIBHSFortifiedHomeConstructionHurricaneSally.pdf>.



Please vote yes on SB26-155 to help Coloradans install impact-resistant roofing and reduce hail-related waste

May 6, 2026

Dear Chair Woodrow and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you so much for your continued work to encourage and enable Coloradans to replace roofing with impact resistant shingles. SB26-155 will help make homes more resilient as well as dramatically reduce waste produced after major climate events. Eco-Cycle is supporting this bill because it is a step towards ensuring all homes in Colorado's hail-prone areas have impact-resistant roofs. [Roughly twelve million tons of shingles are landfilled in the US annually](#). Since Colorado is one of the states in Hail Alley, the most hail-prone part of the US, a significant amount of those shingles come from Colorado homes.

We greatly appreciate the language added through amendment [L.011](#) which will prioritize homes in communities that have adopted ordinances that require all new and replaced roofs to be impact resistant. We strongly believe that ordinances like this are needed to ensure that new homes are built with impact-resistant roofing from the start. While homeowners are incentivized to install impact-resistant roofing when replacing their shingles because they will reap the benefits of more resilient homes and reductions on insurance payments, builders do not have those incentives. For this reason, far too often builders choose less expensive roofing that is not impact resistant.

We have supported the communities of Lafayette and Fort Collins in adopting ordinances to require all new and replaced roofs to use impact-resistant materials, and hope that those requirements will become the norm statewide. **Barring a statewide requirement to that effect, we are thrilled that language has been added to SB26-155 that will hopefully incentivize more communities in hail-prone areas to adopt local impact resistant roofing ordinances. We therefore respectfully request that you vote yes on SB26-155.**

These incentives can go a long way in reducing waste produced from hail storms and increasing the resiliency of Colorado homes.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Jones
Executive Director

Rachel Setzke
Senior Policy Advisor



May 7, 2026

Testimony re: SB 26-155 (SUPPORT)

Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 155, a bill that promotes climate resilience and affordability, while also taking an ambitious and publicly inclusive approach to tackling the problem of severe convective storm damage.

The alarming rise in damages from extreme precipitation and severe convective storms was one of the most discussed topics at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Spring meeting several weeks ago. During the NAIC's meeting of its climate and resiliency task force, policymakers heard a presentation from Aon, which found that 2025 was the sixth consecutive year with insured losses exceeding \$100 billion, and noted that it was the first year where losses from severe convective storms (SCS) exceeded losses from hurricanes.¹

Colorado's insurance market is hugely exposed to this trend, and data released by the insurance commissioner's office in February confirmed that hail was **an even greater driver of insurance costs for Coloradans than wildfire damages**.² A report on SCS risk released in late March found that nearly 1.5 million homes in Colorado are facing moderate or greater hail damage risk.³ The estimated total reconstruction cost value of these homes is \$741.6 billion.

Thankfully, SB 155 creates a program that is responsive to this urgent and growing need. The enterprise program created by SB 155 builds off of a model approach that has shown proven results in several other states. The most well-known and long-standing of these state mitigation programs is Alabama's, and last year, Alabama's insurance commissioner released data confirming that fortified roofs performed better and had lower insurance losses when a hurricane hit the Gulf Coast in 2020.⁴ SB 155's state enterprise program would reportedly support an estimated \$20 million in annual spending for roof fortification,

¹ Aon, *Future of insurability in the face of catastrophe risk*, [March 2026](#)

² Colorado Public Radio, *Hail, not wildfire, driving largest increase in Colorado insurance premiums*, [February 11, 2026](#)

³ Cotality, *2026 Severe Convective Storm Risk Report*, [March 24, 2026](#)

⁴ Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, *Study Shows IBHS FORTIFIED Program Reduced Hurricane Sally Damage*, [May 2025](#)



exceeding the spending by Alabama’s nation-leading program by several million dollars each year.^{5 6}

SB 155 will help with the affordability and availability of insurance markets in Colorado, building off reforms that the legislature has already made. When the legislature factored community and household investments in climate resilience into insurance modeling last year through HB 25-1182, former California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones called it “the most important property-insurance law to be enacted [in 2025].”⁷ Even before the rulemaking for HB 25-1182 went into effect, the benefits for Coloradans could already be seen through news stories about roofing companies offering free walk-throughs to help Coloradans make their homes more fire resilient.⁸

Colorado’s county governments were some of the strongest advocates for HB 25-1182 because they have been such critical partners in building greater climate resilience statewide.^{9 10} The structure of the enterprise program’s governance reflects this partnership and builds on it by including a representative from county governments on the board. Thus, SB 155 is the latest example of Colorado taking a smart approach to ensure that state and local governments are working together to integrate policy surrounding land use, building codes, climate resilience, and insurance regulation.

Please support SB 155. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jordan Haedtler
Climate Cabinet Action

⁵ Summit Daily, *Colorado lawmakers revive effort to drive down homeowners insurance costs with fees on carriers*, [April 7, 2026](#)

⁶ E&E News, *Minnesota aims to fund its home hardening program– at last*, [March 24, 2026](#)

⁷ Yale Law Review, *The Uninsurable Future: The Climate Threat to Property Insurance and How to Stop It*, 12.3.2025

⁸ ABC 7 Denver, *Free wildfire assessment helps Colorado homeowners navigate new fire codes and insurance laws*, [February 24, 2026](#)

⁹ Colorado House Business Affairs & Labor Committee, *CCAT testimony*, [March 13, 2025](#)

¹⁰ Denver Post, *\$141 billion in property is at risk from wildfire. Here’s how that affects your home insurance*, [August 25, 2024](#)



Colorado State Fire Chiefs

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Phone: (303)868-2787
www.cofirechiefs.org

Dear Chairman Woodrow and members of the House Finance Committee:

RE: SB26-155: Increase Access to Homeowner's Insurance Enterprise

The Colorado State Fire Chiefs recommend that the committee supports SB26-155. We realize that the focus of this bill is to provide grants to homeowners to make homes more hail resilient.

The inclusion of a study regarding insurance risk and availability in high wildfire areas is important for fire agencies across the state. This study would evaluate and make recommendations regarding the structure of a high-risk program and ways that a reinsurance program could avoid competition with the private insurance market. Upon completion, the Colorado State Fire Chiefs stands with the state, our members, and insurers in reviewing the findings and proposing steps to reduce wildfire risk and continue insurers for our citizens.

We appreciate Senator Mullica and Commissioner Conway for reaching out to the Colorado State Fire Chiefs to discuss this bill and I also want to thank Sen Marchman, Speaker McCluskie and Representative Brown for assistance with this bill.

We appreciate your support of SB26-155 and thank you for your time.

About the Colorado State Fire Chiefs

The Colorado State Fire Chiefs represent the leadership of more than 300 fire departments and fire districts across Colorado. These include urban, suburban, and volunteer organizations. Collectively, these fire departments and districts have nearly 12,000 career and volunteer firefighters who are committed to protecting the state's residents, visitors, infrastructure, and economy.

Respectfully,

Ken Watkins
Executive Director
Colorado State Fire Chiefs

House Finance

05/07/2026

SB26-155 Increase Access Homeowner's Insurance Enterprise

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeany Rush Against themselves	<p>TO: HOUSE FINANCE RESUBMIT 5-7-26</p> <p>TO: SENATE FINANCE</p> <p>RE: SB26-155 INCREASE ACCESS HOMEOWNER’S INSURANCE ENTERPRISE</p> <p>SPONSORS: K MULLICA, J MCCLUSKIE, K BROWN</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO CONSTITUENT 4-14-26</p> <p>VOTE: NO HARD NO</p> <p>FOLKS:</p> <p>Another stepping around Tabor Bill on the hopper. Further, this bill is not the roll of government.</p> <p>When the state is operating in a deficit due to mismanagement of the budget, and when tax payers are TAPPED OUT, you want to create another Enterprise/government owned business/within the Division of Insurance, and inside the DORA? Wait, another PPP, Public, Private, Partnership, like the many already draining the average citizen, and circumventing what is already known as taxes, by creating FEES and PENALTIES TO HIDE THE FACT THAT IT ADDS TAXES.</p> <p>OH, ONE MORE thing! .5% of total premium collected by an insurer on multiperil homeowners’ insurance policies gets to go to THE ENTERPRISE?</p> <p>BECAUSE this won’t impact all insured in the state? Because the State once again thinks it can decide about building materials, about land management, and about more rules for further out properties near wooded lands?</p> <p>The people who choose to live in that situation already know what they are buying into. This is still a market situation, and while we need disclosures, and real land management, which the state does not know anything about, we do not need the Government going into business to dampen, taint, and drain an already hurting industry from over management and under performance.</p>

	<p>Our government, state, federal, are already destroying grazing which is a huge part of land management, and yet you want to jump back into the commerce end of this subject. The free market is perfectly capable of creating, dispensing, installing higher levels of materials, and adjusting fees accordingly. If the state were not over-taxing, over " fee " collecting the citizens, and controlling the energy, climate, (Including GEOENGINEERING), and every person passing gas, we could handle this in reality.</p> <p>(b) THE BOARD MAY CONTRACT WITH A THIRD-PARTY VENDOR TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM. (IV)ANY MONEY FROM REVENUE BONDS ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION;</p> <p>More layers of what we absolutely DO NOT NEED!</p>
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**Written testimony in support of
Colorado Legislature SB26-155 - Increase Access Homeowner's Insurance
Enterprise by Brian Powell, Catastrophe Risk Resilience Advisor to the
National Association of Insurance Commissioners**

May 7, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair, Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Powell, Catastrophe Risk Resilience Advisor for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Prior to my current role, I served as a Deputy Insurance Commissioner at the Alabama Department of Insurance and had the privilege of designing, implementing, and serving as the founding director of the Strengthen Alabama Homes program for over a decade—one of the nation's leading state-based mitigation grant initiatives. That experience now informs my work at the NAIC, where we support states across the country in developing and implementing similar programs to reduce risk and strengthen insurance markets.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB26-155 to establish a Strengthen Colorado Homes Enterprise.

States that invest in mitigation are seeing real, measurable benefits. By strengthening the most vulnerable parts of homes—especially roofs—these programs reduce damage from hail, wildfire-adjacent wind events, and severe storms. The result is fewer insurance claims, lower losses, and a more stable and competitive insurance market for consumers.

This legislation represents a proactive shift. Instead of focusing solely on disaster recovery, Colorado is positioning itself to reduce losses before they occur. That is not only sound policy, it is essential in today's evolving insurance risk environment.

In Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma, North and South Carolina, and Florida, these programs have demonstrated success. They have strengthened thousands of homes, encouraged insurer participation, and delivered meaningful savings to homeowners. Just as importantly, they create jobs and stimulate local economies through mitigation-focused construction and retrofitting.

At the NAIC, we are actively working with states to replicate these successes by providing technical guidance, sharing best practices, and supporting program design. We are committed to working with the Colorado Insurance Commissioner and staff to provide this support as part of the state's NAIC membership.

This legislation is an investment in resilience, affordability, and long-term insurance market stability. I respectfully urge your support.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Powell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Powell
Catastrophe Risk Resilience Advisor
National Association of Insurance Commissioners