

House Finance

02/06/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1005 Tax Incentive for Film Festivals

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeany Rush Against themselves	TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE FOR BUSINESS AFFAIRS & LABOR HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE RE: HB25-1005 Tax Incentive for Film Festivals Sponsors: McCluskie, Titone, Amabile, Baisley FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Concerned Constituent 2-6-25 VOTE: NO This bill has several problems which I can see. It creates another government segment, entity to manage money, income, taxes, industry and commerce. Further, this bill creates another "Winners and Losers" by government rule' by unelected people, who would be making decisions regarding bringing in Film Operations. We all like films, documentaries, movies, etc. but the Colorado taxpayers have already been robbed in every way. Also, this bill caters to one industry, while ignoring others. When is it time to let the free market determine what industry they want to support, participate in, or create? When does it become more about big industry over small businesses, which the last 4 years administration has decimated? When does our local and federal government see how much they are over reaching, and thereby being open to bribes, lobbyists, and interested parties? This bill lets government choose, and favor! I agree with many other free market organizations, and citizens groups, in that we would want to see all taxes lowered in a big way, and let the market determine. That is after all, the American way!



House Finance Committee – HB1005 Testimony

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Logan Dunning and I am the Senior Manager of Government Affairs at the Colorado Restaurant Association. On behalf of the Association and the seven thousand eating and drinking establishments across our state, we strongly support the relocation of the Sundance Film Festival to Colorado. On behalf of our membership, I am here today to express our enthusiastic support for House Bill 1005.

This move represents a tremendous opportunity for our industry at a critical time. This prestigious event is a unique opportunity for our state to welcome tens of thousands of visitors during January and February—a time of year that is typically slow for our industry.

As you might have read in the headlines, Colorado’s restaurants are facing unprecedented challenges. The rising costs of food, labor, rent, and a burdensome regulatory environment have put immense pressure on small business owners, making it increasingly difficult to stay afloat. Meanwhile, consumer spending habits continue to shift, leaving many restaurants struggling to recover fully from the economic hardships of the past few years. The relocation of the Sundance Film Festival to Colorado would be an economic boon to restaurants, food service workers, and the entire hospitality sector.

The festival’s draw of filmmakers, industry professionals, and moviegoers from around the world would inject millions of dollars into the local economy, particularly benefiting restaurants, cafes, and bars. For Colorado’s food and beverage establishments, this means the chance to fill empty seats, hire additional staff, and generate revenue during a critical time when many businesses are struggling to make ends meet.

Beyond the immediate economic impact, hosting an internationally renowned event like Sundance will further solidify Colorado’s reputation as a premier cultural and culinary destination. As visitors experience our world-class hospitality, we expect long-term benefits in the form of repeat tourism and heightened national and international attention for Colorado’s restaurant scene.



At a time when restaurants are facing mounting financial pressures, the opportunity to host an event of this magnitude cannot be overstated. We urge your support for this relocation and look forward to the positive impact it will have on our industry and the broader Colorado economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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