



Colorado Legislative Education Committee
United Steelworkers District 12

Esteemed Representatives,

The United Steelworkers have long recognized the importance of well-crafted legislation in advancing labor, safety, and environmental protection goals both in Colorado and around the United States. For that reason, our union was a founding member of the BlueGreen Alliance, a group formed to foster mutual respect and collaboration between organized labor and environmentalist groups in areas where our interests might align. With that goal in mind, that we are always open to engaging in productive dialogue on environmental legislation in Colorado, and this year is no different. Ultimately, however, we must always make final decisions based on the needs of our members. As many of those we represent live and work outside of the Denver metro area, we also approach these sorts of discussions with a special concern for the increased cost/risk to benefit ratio faced by USW workers and their families in the southern part of the state.

While we are sympathetic to the issues that led to HB23-1294 (CONCERNING MEASURES TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM POLLUTION), the sudden introduction and short turnaround time on this bill has made this process much more difficult for us. Unfortunately, the bill as currently written has the potential to severely impact and even eliminate the various workplaces where Steelworkers make their living, including facilities involved in the steel, paper, cement, and energy sectors. It is for that reason that we very **strongly oppose** the bill as introduced.

We understand and appreciate that there are major amendments being proposed. At least one of these, if it is adopted, would go a long way towards addressing most of our concerns, and we intend to continue to maintain a dialogue throughout this process. Until such time as any amendments are formally rolled into the bill, though, the gravity of this situation and prior experience with last-minute surprise changes to previous air quality legislation prevents us from moving to a more favorable stance on the bill immediately based on the expectation of amendments alone. Opposing legislation like this is not something we ever take lightly, so should the necessary changes be made, we are prepared and eager for the chance to reevaluate our position.

In Solidarity,

The United Steelworkers Colorado Legislative Education Committee

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