



HB23-1294 Ruth Hund to: LCS Committees 04/20/2023 02:38 PM
History: This message has been replied to.

Hello!

The website is not allowing me to submit written testimony. Could you please submit the following written testimony in support of HB23-1294?

Thank you Madame Chair and the Committee for hearing my testimony. My name is Ruth Hund. I am a resident of Golden, Colorado.

The purpose of the AQCC is “to adopt a cost-effective and efficient air quality management program that promotes clean and healthy air for Colorado’s citizens and visitors, protect Colorado’s scenic and natural resources, and promotes statewide greenhouse gas pollution abatement.” There is nothing in this purpose that makes exceptions for startup, shutdown, or malfunction of facilities.

I do not understand why facilities are not held accountable for pollution produced by malfunctions, startups, and shutdowns. With proper maintenance, malfunctions can be prevented. If I don’t change the oil in my car or replace my timing belt at the appropriate time, my car will malfunction, and I will have to pay more money for the repair. Currently, the consequences, of facility malfunctions are placed on the backs of the local community members. The facility is excused from any fines and the community gets to breathe dirty air, and suffer the resulting health effects.

The Suncor Refinery is a glaring example. The Suncor refinery had an accident that we don’t know much about. Suncor has been very tight-lipped. Two workers were injured and I have not been able to find out if they are okay through CDPHE, OSHA, or the media. There were numerous permit exceedances during their shutdown. They blame the malfunction on cold weather which was around -15°F at the time. Suncor, a Canadian company, should be prepared for much colder temperatures. I have seen -20° F on the Front Range on more than one occasion. Yet, Suncor is excused from not planning for extremely cold weather in Colorado.

If the AQCC purpose is to “promote clean and healthy air,” then they will support this bill, which holds companies accountable for their pollution at all times. I urge you to support HB23-1294.

Thank you for your time.

Ruth L. Hund
Golden, CO

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She/her
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19 April, 2023

CRES Supports HB23-1294 – Concerning Pollution Protection Measures

Dear Bill Sponsors:

Representative Jennifer Bacon, Representative Jenny Willford,
Senator Julie Gonzales, Senator Faith Winter

And, the House Energy & Environment Committee:

Thanks to the sponsors for bringing forth **HB23-1294: Pollution Prevention Measures**.

The Colorado Renewable Energy Society Policy Committee is pleased to support this bill and encourage its adoption.

CRES represents hundreds of Coloradans from many walks of life who are concerned about our state's future. We believe this bill represents a logical step in working to bring the Colorado front range into compliance with ozone standards. The bill addresses a number of key issues that, taken cumulatively, will result on progress on this issue. We realize that this is a difficult problem to solve but believe that it is worth taking these next steps at this time.

We also appreciate that the bill addresses mitigation by industry on "ozone alert" days to partially address the health issues associated with being out of compliance.

Sincerely,

Ron Sinton and Vincent Calvano

For the Colorado Renewable Energy Society Policy Committee

My name is John Ansted, and I've lived in Colorado since 1977. I'm a geologist and geochemist; have worked in the Oil & Gas and Mining industries, Environmental Engineering and Restoration fields for over 40 years. I've enjoyed our beautiful state, clean water and air, and rigorous economy - and hope to see Colorado continue to be a wonderful place to live, work, and play. However, I'm concerned about the increased pace of Oil & Gas regs and seemingly uncertain outcome for these firms - and we their customers - even when they follow all of the rules.

Colorado is blessed with many resources and benefits from carefully extracting them for our use and export. Our petroleum companies continue to reduce their environmental footprints and be good citizens, providing much needed energy and products. Doing so throughout many environmental challenges and regulatory changes. Our modern society depends overwhelmingly on inexpensive and available energy and petroleum products.

While we've incrementally increased renewables, recent data still indicates a very strong demand for US petroleum. Including the strongest demand for "other oils" - naphtha, gasoil, propane, propylene - the highest it has been since 1965. A reflection of our continued need for films, packaging, and medical plastics. All while seeing the lowest strategic petroleum reserve since 1984, and reduced supply from OPEC. This demand will likely continue for decades while alternatives struggle to become more efficient, available, and less expensive.

Strong demand also means higher pricing, and while we've seen a few slight pullbacks, costs for transportation and home heating will likely remain high. Such concerns me, especially for those on fixed incomes as well as the least among us. Increased regulation will cause increased prices or decreased supply - things ill advised at present.

Also, government attempts to control citizens choices for their transportation to/from their work does not seem consistent with freedom or our constitutions (US or CO). Further, passing this bill out of committee without feedback and input from our O&G producers seems indeed, unwise.

I fear ultimately chasing energy companies out of our state - reducing good-paying jobs for hardworking Coloradans, and associated lost revenue to other Colorado businesses - overall, lowering many Coloradans' quality of life. The loss of tax revenue will result in significantly higher income or property taxes, or reduced government services. **SCHOOL REVENUE LOST**

I urge the Committee to consider these concerns and very likely results, and vote no on HB23-1294.

John Ansted
Jefferson County, CO

Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time today to hear the community's strong concern for protecting communities from pollution. My name is Brittany Zampella and I'm the Co-founder of Farsighted Creative. We're a Colorado-based media company that, after witnessing the environmental injustices being perpetrated in North Denver, recently produced a documentary about it. We have been working for over two years to tell the stories of the people who are affected daily by pollution and after speaking with several local residents, activists, and organizations, it became clear that stronger action needs to be taken.

I want to first share my disappointment about how the state is not addressing the permitting process in this bill. When doing our own research about pollution, we were shocked to learn that many industrial companies in the North Denver area rarely faced opposition when it came to their permit approval process. What was even more alarming to learn was that some businesses were operating with expired permits and repeatedly violated environmental laws set by the EPA. The most disheartening result from all of this is that there are thousands of people living in these areas that pay the cost of these environmental violations everyday with their health and quality of life.

While it's frustrating that the permitting practices will not be addressed in this bill, I do offer my strong support for the provisions around increased community engagement. I think we can easily forget that pollution is not just about our air or the ozone, but about the *people* who are disproportionately affected by them, and whose voices are often ignored or silenced. Passing this bill would help ensure that the voices of those who are most affected by toxins are heard and genuinely taken into consideration.

Please approve this bill and protect all Coloradans from the climate and health impacts of pollution in our state.

Thank you.