

Support for HB23-1267 CMV Speeding Penalties

April 11, 2023

Thank you to the Committee Chair, the Committee and bill sponsors.

My name is Randy Wheelock, chairman of the Clear Creek County Commission, writing today in support of HB23-1267. I am also:

- I-70 Coalition, Vice Chair
- I-70 Collaborative Effort, Co-chair
- A 50+ year resident, who helped build I-70 and the Eisenhower Tunnel in the early 1970's

The I-70 mountain Corridor was the toughest stretch of interstate in the country to build and remains arguably the toughest to drive today. As a result, it has been the scene of many of the most tragic events that have incentivized the creation of this bill. On peak days, the I-70 corridor moves over 150,000 people per day through the Eisenhower Tunnel in over 50,000 vehicles. That density of mobility creates:

- Elevated risk of human and material destruction
- Elevated risk of delays to people's and businesses' schedules
- Elevated risk of economic impact when the Interstate is blocked, measured in the millions of dollars per hour
- Elevated pressure on critical law enforcement, fire, and ambulance resources
- Elevated risk of environmental pollution from spilled cargo and fuel

We've seen weekly catastrophes on:

- Genesee Hill, including the fatal fireball under the Denver West bridge in 2019
- Floyd Hill
- Georgetown Hill
- Straight Creek, the westbound descent from the Eisenhower tunnel to Silverthorne
- Vail Pass, on both the east and west sides

In Clear Creek, we are very sensitive to these impacts to ourselves and our neighbors in Jefferson, Summit and Eagle counties, the impacts to:

- The lives of our residents
- The lives of the travelling public
- The lives of the drivers of the big rigs
- The suffering of their families
- Sustaining continuous mobility
- The impacts to our economies and schedules when we fail to do so
- The environmental health of our watershed

From all of this, I'm sure you understand why we are ardent supporters of the long overdue solutions provided by HB23-1267: public and driver education, and deterrence. I strongly urge you to support the bill as well.

Thanks again, Randy Wheelock