

April 28, 2022

Good afternoon Representative Valdez and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. My name is Bryce Carter, and I am the Colorado Program Director with Solar United Neighbors. We represent rooftop solar owners and supporters across the state.

I am here in support of Senate Bill 138, as it helps address multiple ways Colorado can expand its greenhouse gas reduction goals. These changes will help accelerate the transition to a renewable energy economy; creating jobs and fostering resilience in our communities.

I am also here to advocate for the introduction of the Equitable Energy Upgrade and Acceleration Program amendment, or EEUAP. We believe all Coloradans should have the choice to select smart energy upgrades through inclusive utility investments that save money and build wealth. EEUAP allows customers of investor-owned utilities to make every cost-effective energy upgrade at a home or business on fair terms, often without upfront costs, and without taking out a loan.

The utility makes the investment, and the consumer will have a clear pathway to ownership of these upgrades by recovering the cost through a charge on their electric bill. This charge is less than what they are saving, so the overall bill goes down right away.

To ensure consumer protections for this program, a third-party program operator would be hired by the utility to facilitate energy audits and upgrades. The operator will determine which upgrades are qualified, looking at the whole house system including upgrading energy-efficient appliances, equipment, and installing solar. We anticipate the combined savings of these upgrades to stack, which can help make electrifying homes more accessible.

We believe if this amendment is introduced, it would be one of the most impactful pieces of energy equity legislation this session. EEUAP directs the Public Utilities Commission to design an inclusive utility investment program that works for all Coloradans, with a priority to serve marginalized communities. With no credit or debt needed for customers, we anticipate as many as 10,000 families will be able to take advantage of this program annually, providing upward of \$350 million invested into Colorado's economy. This will create local jobs, provide local economic resilience, enhance existing energy equity and/or rebate programs, and accelerate our impact for achieving the state's climate and energy goals.

Introducing this amendment will emphasize energy equity is a priority for Colorado, and allow the Public Utilities Commission to have direction for establishing a program design through further stakeholder collaboration.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

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Colorado House
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

April 28, 2022

Re: Support SB22-138 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions In Colorado

Dear House Energy and Environment Committee:

Good Business Colorado (GBC) is a statewide grassroots organization of over 430 values-driven business owners in 31 counties working together to build a prosperous economy, equitable communities, and a sustainable environment. If we do nothing to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will end any possibility of prosperity, equity, or sustainability in the future. That is why we are writing to ask you to vote yes for SB22-138 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions In Colorado.

Clean Energy and Air Pollution both ranked in the top six policy priorities in our member survey. Air pollution, extreme weather, fires, floods, shorter winters, hotter summers, and drought are all impacting Colorado businesses now. The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report makes clear that the window to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avert the worst impacts of climate change is closing fast. The report's takeaway is that we have all the technology we need, but lack the political will to take action, and as a result are failing nationally and globally to make progress.

2019's House Bill 1261 established greenhouse gas reduction targets through 2040 for Colorado. Unfortunately, as a state, we are not on target to reach those goals. SB22-193 is a big picture climate bill that reinforces and builds on HB19-1261. It shores up our efforts and gives us a better chance of reaching our targets with several provisions, including developing insurance considerations for climate change, studying carbon sequestration through agriculture, and promoting "agrivoltaics" (colocation of solar and agriculture). We urge you to pass SB22-138 to help our state make the ghg reductions needed to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

Best Regards,

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