

HB19-1314: Just Transition From Coal-based Electrical Energy Economy

April 10, 2019 • House Business Affairs & Labor Committee

Testimony of Sam Gilchrist, Western Campaigns Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

Thank you to the sponsors of HB19-1314 for addressing the important issue of a Just Transition through legislation. Thank you to the Chairs and Committee Members of the House Business Affairs & Labor Committee for bringing forth HB19-1314 for a hearing.

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council members in Colorado, we are here today in support of a Just Transition policy and funding in Colorado.

We strongly believe in the negative effects of climate change on our public health and our state's economy—brought on largely by the extraction and burning of fossil fuels to produce energy.

Just as we recognize the need for policy to rapidly move to a zero-carbon economy, we also stand in solidarity with the working men and women of Colorado whose livelihoods are impacted by the transition to renewable energy.

With the cost of producing energy from wind and solar decreasing significantly over the last decade, fossil fuels are no longer the most cost-effective way to produce energy.

As we recognize the need and market realities that are driving these changes, we must honor the contribution and create opportunities for those that have given their lives to providing reliable energy to power our state.

Coloradans strongly support transitioning to renewable energy sources, and want to see our state make that transition quickly. We also want to ensure the workers and communities tied to the fossil fuel industry are not left behind.

NRDC is committed to working with the legislature and the effected communities to determine the best solution to addressing this issue in a timely manner.

Thank you.