

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

03/25/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1292 Transmission Lines in State Highway Rights-of-Way

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeany Rush Against themselves	<p>TO: HOUSE TRANSPORTATION HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT</p> <p>RE: HB25-1292 TRANSMISSION LINES IN</p> <p>STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY</p> <p>SPONSOR: BOESENECKER</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO SPRINGS CONSTITUENT 3-25-25</p> <p>VOTE: NO</p> <p>There are many concerns in this bill, not the least of them is the actual "Potential High Transmission" impacts on life. Too many people do complain about tiredness, headaches, and neurological problems when exposed to ELF-EMF etc. Taking data from many Universities to site research can be deceiving. Example: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hills may say it is safe. But how can we trust a Science program from a University that is and was actively participating in "Gain of Function" creation of the bio-weapon, known as Covid – etc.?</p> <p>How can we trust a state, Colorado, which has embraced the notion that it has a clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction plan, and reliability" when it does not even know how to define greenhouse gas, pollution? How can we trust the state that does not understand that CO2 is life for plants and humans? How can we trust a state, and bills like this when this state does not even know how to really define Clean Energy?</p> <p>NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME IS WHAT I CALL ALL OF THIS!</p> <p>Gaining the ability to place transmission lines in highway RIGHTS OF WAY is also not the smartest thing to consider. The potential dangers outweigh a willy-nilly approach to giving "carte blanche" to anyone or authority for making this normal practice. The "Public-Private Partnership, where funding is provided by private partners, created by the Colorado Energy Office, feels an awful lot like the same partnerships that want to bury Carbon pipelines under our lands, when they are much more dangerous than natural gas lines!</p> <p>Add to this that an Executive Director may adopt rules as necessary to implement processes for developers, to denial of permits, to surcharges, to update rules" What COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG HERE?</p> <p>Too much power in many directions, when we do not have a realistic, or safe energy program. We have a whole of MALARCHY!</p>

	<p>MAYBE ONE SITUATION AT A TIME UNTIL THIS IS VETTED FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, TO STOP ABUSES, WHICH will certainly occur.</p> <p>This really is not ready until the Truth is told about our energy, our resources, and the irresponsible way Coal is shut down prematurely, among other actions to attack oil and gas as well.</p>
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March 25, 2025

To: Representatives of the Transportation, Housing and Local Government Committee

From: Ned West, AICP, Sr. Planner

Subject: Testimony in Favor of HB25-1198 Regional Planning Roundtable Commission
Concerning the creation of a regional planning roundtable commission

Thank you Madam Chair and committee members for the opportunity to testify in support of HB25-1198 today. My name is Ned West. I am a professional senior municipal planner with 17 years of experience working in mountain community local government. I am a member of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), testifying as such today. I urge your support of HB25-1198 because creating a common, integrated planning framework with regional and interdisciplinary forums will support the variety of challenges facing local governments across Colorado.

While many communities plan across borders today, collaborating with essential state representatives will support communities with limited resources who will benefit from an integrated planning framework to face today's complex challenges. Although I am in favor of local government control as the most efficient and responsive framework for serving the specific needs of communities, I am aware that many of the complex issues facing today's communities are often best addressed on a regional level.

Housing is one of the greatest challenges facing the economic vitality of rural mountain resort communities who support the demands of statewide tourism. The increasing demand for attainable housing for the local workforce places an unsustainable strain on the balance of the demands for goods and services and the workforce capable of providing them. Only through coordinated regional efforts may rural mountain communities face this challenge.

Water is a vital resource and is essential for the nation's food production, healthy ecosystems, and thriving communities. I have worked in partnership with the Blue River Watershed Group to establish a consortium of dedicated professionals across jurisdictional boundaries to develop a Blue River Watershed Wildfire Ready Action Plan through the CWCB to prepare for the inevitable response to catastrophic wildfire. Only through a regional planning effort can communities in a tributary headwater to the Colorado River be prepared to protect and maintain vital drinking water sources, the ecological resources supporting wildlife and healthy forests, and a clean and flowing Colorado River on which 40 million people depend for water and electricity in the American West. It is this example of state support through the grassroots efforts of regional partners that represents the value of state supported regional planning.

HB25-1198 will create an integrated framework for regional partners to coordinate with one and other and the state to address the challenges facing communities while maintaining local control over decision making for their communities, local land use, resource protection, and economic vitality. As such, I encourage your support for the establishment of a state commission to coordinate the creation of regional and inter-disciplinary roundtables for the betterment of the people of Colorado.

March 25, 2025
House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee

Amend HB25-1292 Transmission Lines in State Highway Rights of Way (Representative Boesenecker)

Good Afternoon Chair Froelich, Vice Chair Stewart and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jacob Richardson, and I am a Senior Transmission Policy Advisor at Western Resource Advocates (WRA), where I advocate for policies that promote effective transmission planning, grid expansion, and use of grid modernization technologies. WRA has worked for 35 years to ensure our communities thrive in balance with nature.

WRA thanks Representative Boesenecker for bringing this bill forward. We share the sponsors' intent to allow transmission developers to utilize state highway right-of-ways for high-voltage transmission lines. The legislative intent of this bill supports WRA's goal of reducing carbon emissions in the grid. The West and Colorado need additional transmission investments to allow for greater adoption of renewable energy resources and strengthen grid reliability. WRA also supports provisions in this bill that will help mitigate negative impacts on wildlife and communities.

As introduced, WRA was in an amend position on this bill, however we understand that the committee will consider changes today addressing our concerns. We are grateful to the proponents and Rep. Boesencker for working with us to add independent transmission developers to the list of definitions, to simplify the language around site priorities, ensure close coordination with CO Dept. of Transportation, and increase transparency on funding sources for any ROW constructability studies undertaken. In closing, WRA supports this legislation and the role for CETA in helping to identify state highway right-of-ways that will allow cost effective transmission development in Colorado.

Thank you for considering this testimony. I encourage you to adopt amendment L.001 and to vote "yes" to move the bill on with a favorable recommendation.



Jacob Richardson
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