

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

02/10/2026 02:00 PM

SB26-030 Local Access State Parks Grant Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Polly Reetz Against themselves	<p>Good afternoon. My name is Polly Reetz and I have lived in Denver for almost 50 years. My family has hiked, camped, photographed and watched birds in Colorado's State Parks for all of that time: Roxborough, Chatfield, Golden Gate, Cherry Creek, Rifle Falls, Castlewood Canyon, and now Staunton.</p> <p>The people of Colorado love the outdoors, particularly their State Parks. In the late 1980's fans of the outdoors persuaded the General Assembly to pass a statute setting up the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) program, which funnels part of lottery proceeds to Colorado Parks and Wildlife and State and local Parks. However the General Assembly later decided to divert some of those funds, I believe for education programs. This was a good cause, but Coloradoans quite decidedly wanted the money to go to parks, wildlife and open space. Eventually the public had to propose and pass a constitutional amendment (via initiative) to get GOCO monies permanently directed to parks, wildlife and open space. Now SB26-030 proposes another diversion of such funds, this time from Keep Colorado Wild, to infrastructure, again not a bad cause. BUT Coloradoans love their State Parks! Please vote against SB26-030 and find another source of income for infrastructure. Money from Keep Colorado Wild should stay with State Parks and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment.</p>



Opposition to SB26-030

Submitted by: Colorado Mountain Bike Coalition (COMTB)

Position: Oppose

Chair and Members of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **SB26-030**. The Colorado Mountain Bike Coalition (COMTB) respectfully opposes this bill due to its potential to undermine the purpose and long-term viability of the **Keep Colorado Wild Pass Act (KCW)**, and related negative impacts to Colorado's Outdoor Strategy.

1. The Keep Colorado Wild Pass is a voluntary conservation and recreation funding mechanism

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass Act is an **opt-in, voluntary fee** paid by Colorado residents during vehicle registration. Participants choose to pay this fee with the clear understanding that it directly supports **conservation, state parks, wildlife management, search and rescue, and outdoor recreation**.

The success of KCW depends on **public trust**. Voluntary payers must be confident that their contributions are being used for the purposes clearly described when they opt in.

2. Colorado's outdoor recreation economy is a major statewide economic driver

Outdoor recreation is a foundational component of Colorado's economy, supporting **hundreds of thousands of jobs**, generating **tens of billions of dollars in economic output**, and sustaining communities across urban, rural, and gateway regions.

Investments in high-quality recreation infrastructure and healthy natural landscapes directly support:

- Local businesses and tourism
- Workforce attraction and retention
- Community health and quality of life

Funding mechanisms that sustain these assets are not discretionary; they are central to Colorado's economic resilience.

3. KCW is an established and successful tool for advancing recreation and conservation goals

Colorado's recently adopted **Colorado Outdoor Strategy** emphasizes the need to **advance conservation and outdoor recreation together** through coordinated planning, stable funding, and strong partnerships.

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass is already a **proven, voter-supported mechanism** advancing these goals by:

- Providing dedicated funding for parks and wildlife
- Supporting outdoor access and stewardship
- Reinforcing the link between conservation outcomes and recreation experiences

KCW represents exactly the type of **trusted, purpose-built funding tool** envisioned by the Outdoor Strategy.

4. SB26-030 undermines KCW and conflicts with the Outdoor Strategy

SB26-030 would redirect KCW revenues toward **local road and infrastructure projects**, shifting the use of funds away from their original conservation and recreation purposes.

While county road maintenance is an important public need, this reallocation:

- Breaks the implied agreement with voluntary KCW participants
- Risks eroding public confidence and future participation
- Weakens a successful funding mechanism aligned with the Colorado Outdoor Strategy

Transportation and road infrastructure have **other established funding pathways**. The KCW program should not be repurposed to fill unrelated funding gaps.

Conclusion

COMTB urges the committee to **oppose SB26-030** in order to:

- Protect the integrity of the Keep Colorado Wild Pass
- Maintain public trust in voluntary conservation funding
- Ensure alignment with Colorado's Outdoor Strategy
- Preserve long-term investment in conservation and outdoor recreation

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Sweet, President COMTB



BOULDER COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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February 9, 2026

Dear Chair Weissman and Members of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee:

The Conservation Committee of Boulder County Audubon Society is pleased to submit this letter of **opposition to SB26-030/ Grant Program for Local Governments to Improve Access to State Parks**. BCAS represents over 1,400 members. We are a voice for birds and wildlife conservation through habitat protection, advocacy, and nature education.

SB26-030 diverts money to highways from the cash funds that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) needs and uses to conserve over 960 species of wildlife as well as the habitats in which they live. Our wild lands and the myriad life forms that live upon them are under unprecedented threat. Birds and biodiversity are declining, <https://www.audubon.org/press-room/us-bird-populations-continue-alarming-decline-new-report-finds> CPW needs all of the money it gets from the Keep Colorado Wild Pass Act to meet its important conservation goals.

People are buying their Colorado state park passes when their vehicle registration expires with the understanding that the money goes to State Parks. Diversion of money from the existing users-pay/users-benefit system would be misleading.

Regards,

/s Cathern Smith for the Conservation Committee of the Boulder County Audubon Society