

## House Bill 26- 1121

### Hadley Ahrens

First off I want to thank the committee and **Chair Valdez** for this time and opportunity.

My name is Hadley Ahrens I am lobbying here as a private citizen. I am an undergrad at the University of Colorado Boulder, and as a student majoring in Environmental Studies and EBIO and also serving as a representative for CU student government I am here because I care about **transparency, accountability, and accessibility** in the pursuit of lowering emissions in Colorado.

Passing house bill 26-1121 is the first step to holding major polluting corporations in Colorado accountable for their emissions. Time and time again in my lectures we learn about how emission reduction is impossible without accountability from corporations that contribute the vast majority. Accountability begins with transparency to the public and lobbyists like me about where exactly Colorado emissions come from.

These institutions, corporations and facilities already have to report these emissions however not to those who need to be informed the most, Coloradans. We deserve to know whats going on in our backyards.

As you representatives are likely aware, Colorado is having struggles meeting the emission reduction goals in the colorado clean energy plan. And by failing to pass this bill we setting colorado further off track

I am not sure if any of you have attempted to use the tool that is available for the public to currently access this emission information but it is near impossible to navigate. I did an little experiment going in blind and timed myself attempting to find a corporation's emissions in my hometown of Colorado Springs that I believe to be a large emitter, and **from start to finish in the search process it took me a whopping 11 minutes and 10 seconds.**

And this is from an environmental studies college student who understands technology and has worked with map search programs like these, has an excellent geographical understanding of the location I was searching in. **The current programs are inaccessible to say the least.**

Therefore we need public reporting of emissions to be displayed easily and accessibly online to hold corporations accountable, for education, and for public health. There is no moving forward as long as we give these corporations the right to pollute and emit under the table, relying on the public's inability to navigate tools no average nor above average person could quickly and easily use `12

Re: **SB26-1121 Public Accessibility of Emissions Records** – February 23, 2026

To: House Bill Sponsors: Representative Bob Marshall Representative Lorena Garcia  
Senate Bill Sponsor: Senator Lisa Cutter Senator Cath Kipp Members of the House  
**Energy & Environment Committee:** Chair Representative Alex Valdez Vice Chair  
Representative Elizabeth Velasco Representative Carlos Barron Representative Ken  
DeGraaf Representative Lori Goldstein Representative Jamie Jackson Representative  
Junie Joseph Representative Amy Paschal Representative Manny Rutinel  
Representative Scott Slaugh Representative Lesley Smith Representative Jenny Willford  
Representative Dan Woog

Thank you for the good work towards reducing the pollution in our communities and meeting emission goals that reduce climate change impacts on our community and neighbors.

I advocate for the reduction of emissions that are causing our communities to be polluted in the vast Denver/Front Range Severe Ozone Non-Attainment pollution area, and for the reduction of emissions from burning fossil fuels that cause climate change and contribute to Severe Ozone pollution.

I believe that the public deserves the right to understand the real emissions that are contributing to the Severe Ozone Non-attainment pollution area, and that it is currently far too difficult for the public to access current information on real emissions.

#### **Background on the Severe Ozone Pollution - Denver/Front Range Non-Attainment area:**

- The pollution is getting worse: in 2022 the bad air we breathe went from “serious” to “severe” according to the Environmental Protection Agency and the State Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC).
  - According to the AQCC 2022 and 2023 Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) reports (see the AQCC graphs below) the ozone pollution air sampling data documents increasing trends in the last three data periods:

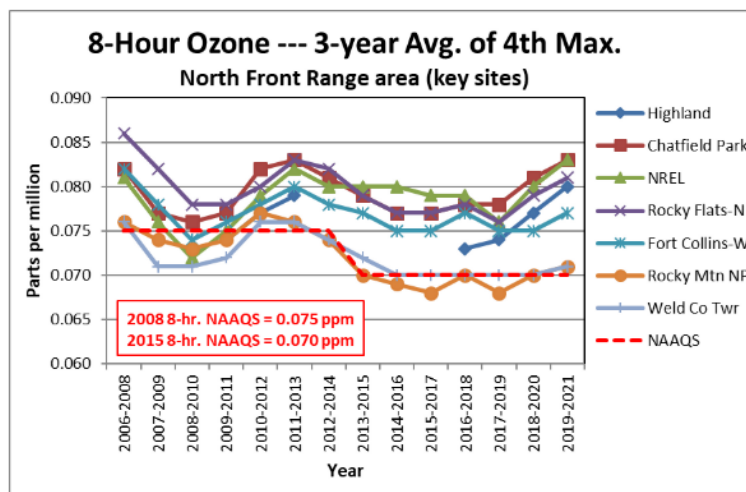


Figure 4. 3-Year Average of 4<sup>th</sup> Maximum 8-Hour Average Trend Graph

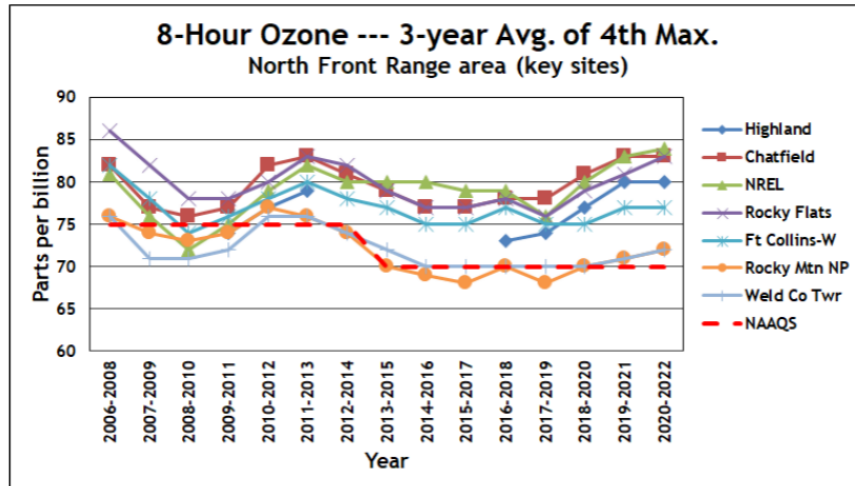


Figure 2-2: 3-Year Average of 4<sup>th</sup> Maximum 8-Hour Average Trend Graph

- Roughly about 4 million people live in and breathe pollution in the Severe Ozone Non-attainment area; about two thirds of states population in nine counties including: Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Adams, Douglas, Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer, and Weld.
- Severe pollution causes our community members breathing problems, asthma, lung damage, cardiac issues, heart attacks, and premature deaths, a terrible cost to our communities.
  - Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI) in their 2023 Clearing the Air Report estimated additional health-related costs and lost workdays in Colorado to range from \$480 million to \$1 billion per year.
  - CFI in their 2026 Colorado Climate Damages and Adaptation Cost Report estimated historical Colorado costs attributable to excess heat (1999-2024) to be about \$200 million per year and estimated future expected heat related climate attributable death costs to range from \$730 million to \$830 million per year.
  - CFI in their 2026 report estimated that future Colorado expected climate related costs to be roughly \$1.3 billion per year.

**As a private citizen I urge you to approve SB26-1121:**

1. The public deserves the right to access and understand the real and current emissions of the companies/businesses that they purchase from. The public also deserves to understand what the companies/businesses are doing to reduce those emissions.
2. Companies/businesses will benefit by reporting their emissions on their websites, as they will have a much better opportunity to let their customers know what they are doing about the emissions.
3. Companies/businesses will also have a much better opportunity to clarify current information from old and incorrect emission information.
4. I believe that companies/business will likely consider additional reduction measures/goals as they report on their websites, which will likely have a beneficial effect for the companies and their neighbors.

Sincerely,

Ted Wells  
President [ClimateUnified.org](http://ClimateUnified.org)