

House Energy & Environment

02/26/2026 01:30 PM

HB26-1007 Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kaitlin Barrer For themselves	Between inter-connection hassles and city permitting nightmares, I have had an extremely difficult time getting rooftop solar. Plug in solar would be an incredible way to generate electricity and reap benefits in days not months!
Mike Lotte For themselves	I am writing in support of HB1007. Both plug-in solar and meter collars will give Colorado residents more independence and affordability when it comes to their energy choices. Colorado is a leader in innovative energy solutions, let's keep up the good work.
Bob Walker For themselves	I am very excited about the balcony solar and meter collar bill. I think this will encourage a lot of people to install balcony panels and start to reduce their utility bills. I think it will also build interest in renewable energy. The meter collar bill will also reduce costs for those of us wanting rooftop and battery systems. Please vote in favor of this bill.
Lynn K. Fritz For themselves	<p>The legislation you are considering in committee today is so important both for allowing more Coloradans to access solar for energy and to ensure that Colorado residents do not need to needlessly expand their electrical panels.</p> <p>Plug in solar is especially important to alleviate the power outage issues that so many people have faced just this year alone. It is also important for the legislature to accommodate those people who cannot afford solar on their roofs, who cannot add solar panels for other reasons (I have too much shade on my roof for example), or who rent.</p> <p>Please pass this bill out of committee and thank you!</p>
Ginger Randall For themselves	<p>Plug-in solar should be mandatory legislation across America. The Utilities conglomerates are robbing Us blind! The ONLY reason you would vote against it is because YOU are profiting from American suffering ☹️</p> <p>We Know plug-in solar works, Utah proved it. Stop stomping on relief for Us just to line your own pockets!</p>
Paula Mannell For	My name is Paula Mannell and I own a home with rooftop solar at 859 Gapter Road, Boulder, CO. My 6kwh system cost \$27,000 in 2013. It supplies all of our electricity for our 3000SF home and charges our Leaf electric car and we get a check from Xcel

<p>themselves</p>	<p>for \$65-\$120/month for our solar production. We are a net producer. But at a time when most folks can't even afford a home, how are they going to pay for a traditional roof top solar system? This makes rooftop solar a barrier to entry and will prevent the "solar revolution" we so need in Colorado and everywhere. Let's make this solar revolution possible in Colorado to ALL homeowners and renters. The beauty of plug in solar is there is little to no transmission loss - straight to the fridge or the dryer. There's no overloading of our aging electrical grid as the interconnection is not to Xcel but to your home battery or appliances. It keeps folks safer in an emergency when we experience power outages - they have access to computers and can charge phones to stay informed. Passing HB26-1007 opens up the solar revolution to apartment dwellers who do not own a rooftop! And it lowers the financial barrier to joining the solar revolution. The passage of this bill is an important piece to battling Front Range poor air quality and aids in thwarting the Trump Administration's rollback of climate catastrophe regulations in favor of fossil fuels (Big Oil and Methane/Natural Gas). Thanks and please pass this bill! Paula Mannell</p>
<p>Kenneth Nova For themselves</p>	<p>Please vote to support the plug-in solar bill, HB26-1007. We need to do everything we can to make sustainable energy sources more available for more people. Think about that as Colorado dries up from a historically dry and warm winter, the direction our climate has been heading for a while.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Nathan Wiser For themselves</p>	<p>I write to support passage of HB26-1007, which would allow and encourage more customer use of distributed energy resources, notably solar power. As the nation's electricity demand continues to surge due to artificial intelligence data center installations, and the growth of electrification of buildings and transportation, people should be able to harness the free energy that daily shines on us from the sun, our nearest star. This bill would allow use of this free energy, at comparatively low cost with the simple act of plugging a small, portable solar panel into an electrical outlet at one's residence. In addition, the bill requires these small, portable solar panels to safely operate, including during times when power lines are de-energized. With increasingly likely planned utility power outages and emergencies such as fires, floods, or other disasters exacerbated by our rapidly changing climate, we need energy solutions now and this bill would be one of those solutions.</p>
<p>Don Burzen For themselves</p>	<p>Solar energy has proven itself over the years. It is no longer an "alternative" source. While rooftop solar systems can be sized to satisfy the energy usage of the entire home, such systems are quite costly, and they are certainly not a consideration for renters. These plug-in "balcony" systems can fill that gap. They are less costly, since they only support a small percentage of household energy needs. But beyond that, they are not installed permanently, so the purchaser can readily move it from rental to rental. As proven across Europe, they collectively take a significant load off the utility's plants, thus reducing the need for major expansions. They make sense, and we should make their usage easier to implement, and this bill does just that, while keeping safety as a major factor.</p>

<p>Roy Parker For themselves</p>	<p>Plug in solar would be great addition for many households to reduce dependence on oil/gas electrical generation and reduce green house gases. This is a good thing. Please support the bill.</p>
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HB26-1007 Improve Customer Use of Distributed Energy (aka Balcony Solar)

To: Representative Valdez and the Energy & Environment Committee Members

I, Melissa Katz, a representative of Colorado Jewish Climate Action (CJCA), am writing to you to voice CJCA's support for HB26-1007.

CJCA is an organization committed to bringing our Jewish values to addressing climate change. These values include Tikkun Olam- taking care of the planet and ensuring social justice.

With the lens of our Jewish values, we see this bill as vital to the citizens of Colorado. From a Tikkun Olam point of view, this bill helps to drive the implementation of renewable energy by making it more affordable. This will reduce our reliance on pollution generating fossil fuels and increase our communities' resilience in the face of the impact of climate change. From a social justice perspective, this bill reduces the cost of solar panels and therefore enables those of lower income to afford a more resilient and lower cost source of energy for their homes whether they own their home or rent. This will also reduce our overall dependence on fossil fuels whose production and use more significantly impacts lower income communities.

In summary, we ask that you and the committee support this bill.

Thank you
Melissa Katz
Denver
Colorado Jewish Climate Action



Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB26-1007, "Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources." My name is Sara Kuntzler, Colorado State Director for Mountain Mamas, an organization working to protect our air and water and secure a healthy climate for our children.

Colorado families are facing rising energy costs while wanting cleaner energy options. They need affordable, practical solutions now. HB26-1007 helps make that possible by allowing households to use small plug-in solar systems, often called balcony solar. These systems can be safely installed by homeowners or renters, plug into a standard outlet, and directly power household appliances, which can help lower monthly electric bills without major construction or large upfront costs.

The bill also expands access to meter collars, which simplify connecting customer-owned energy devices and can avoid expensive electrical panel upgrades. That cost savings can make the difference for families who otherwise could not afford to go solar.

Importantly, the legislation removes unnecessary utility approval barriers for small systems that send little or no excess power to the grid, while maintaining strong safety standards. Qualified systems must meet rigorous product safety requirements, and meter collars include built-in protections.

Utilities in other states, including Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy, already use meter collars, demonstrating this is proven technology.

HB26-1007 expands access to affordable clean energy, supports grid resilience, and gives renters and working families a fair opportunity to lower their energy costs. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Sara Kuntzler

Colorado State Director
Mountain Mamas

Re: **SB26-1007 Consumer Choice and Use Distributed Energy** – February 26, 2026

To: Bill Sponsors: Representative Lesley Smith, Representative Rebekah Stewart, Senator Cathy 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 Slauch 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 Environmental Justice Act (EJA HB21-1266) sets a foundation for requiring increased choice and fair access to solar, the safest and least polluting power source. The EJA act prioritizes reducing environmental health disparities in disproportionately impacted communities. The EJA recognizes that “all people have the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, participate freely in decisions that affect their environments, live free of dangerous levels of toxic pollution, experience equal protection provided by environmental policies, and share the benefits of a prosperous and vibrant pollution-free economy.”

As a private citizen I urge you to approve SB26-1007:

1. The public deserves the right to choose to install small scale solar to help save money, and that it is currently far too difficult for the public to install small scale plug-in solar.
2. Companies/businesses will benefit from the new ability to sell small scale solar products and services to an increased larger marketplace.
3. Our community will likely benefit from a larger number of jobs due to a larger marketplace for solar products and services.
4. Increasing small scale solar availability will likely reduce the use of fossil fuel for energy production and hopefully reduce the pollution of the Severe Denver Front Range Ozone Non-attainment area covering about two thirds of states population in including nine counties (Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Adams, Douglas, Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer, and Weld).

Sincerely,

Ted Wells

President ClimateUnified.org