

Broomfield Taxpayer Matters



RE: HB26-1313 – House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @ 1:30pm

Sponsors: Rep(s) Boesencker & Stewart R., Sen(s) Ball

Thank you, Chair Froelich, and Members of the House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.

Thank you for considering this written testimony. My name is Sheryl Fernandez, and I represent Broomfield Taxpayer Matters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to educate, empower, and advocate for the taxpayers across Colorado – NOT just in Broomfield.

Broomfield Taxpayer Matters are in OPPOSITION to HB26-1313.

Colorado taxpayers are already being asked to fund an ever-growing list of government housing subsidies, and this bill moves us further down that path. Rather than addressing the root causes of high housing costs—such as excessive regulations, permitting delays, and rising construction costs—HB26-1313 doubles down on a model that relies on continuous public subsidies.

Affordable housing programs funded by the state ultimately rely on taxpayer dollars. Whether those funds come from dedicated housing fees, redirected revenues, or state appropriations, the result is the same: taxpayers are expected to continuously finance housing programs that government then manages and distributes. This approach does not solve the structural problem—it simply expands the subsidy system.

HB26-1313 also loosens the requirements local governments must meet to qualify for these state housing funds. By replacing clear housing production standards with formulas, waivers, and credit systems, the bill risks reducing accountability while continuing to distribute taxpayer money. When the requirements become more flexible, but the subsidies continue, taxpayers are effectively funding programs with fewer measurable outcomes and lack of transparency.

There is also a long-term concern about sustainability. Government-subsidized housing programs rarely shrink over time—they grow. Once funding streams are created, they tend to expand, requiring additional taxpayer support year after year. Colorado already faces pressure on its budget for transportation, education, and public safety. Expanding ongoing housing subsidies puts further strain on limited public resources.

If lawmakers want to truly improve housing affordability, the focus should be on reducing barriers to private housing development—streamlining permitting, reducing unnecessary regulations, and allowing the private market to respond to demand. Those reforms increase housing supply without requiring permanent taxpayer subsidies.

For these reasons, BTM urges the committee to oppose HB26-1313 and instead pursue solutions that lower housing costs without expanding government-funded housing programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.