

[HB23-1281 Advance The Use Of Clean Hydrogen](#)

House Energy & Environment Committee Hearing

Bill Sponsors: Rep Brianna Titone; Rep Stephanie Vigil

Testimony by Susan Nedell, Mountain West Advocate for E2 - Environmental Entrepreneurs
April 20, 2023

Thank you Madame Chair and committee members for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Susan Nedell. I am the Mountain West Advocate for E2 - Environmental Entrepreneurs. E2 is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders who advocate for policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment. I am speaking on behalf of E2 Colorado members and supporters.

Advancing the production and use of hydrogen in Colorado needs to have a thoughtful balance between encouraging innovation and meeting our climate goals. We need to have strong guardrails to make clear Colorado is only open to clean tech hydrogen production and it not become an excuse to continue to develop and burn fossil fuels.

Since “clean” hydrogen allows for some amount of greenhouse gases or fossil fuel emissions in production, in this bill, emissions accounting is critical to ensure clean hydrogen actually helps us reduce emissions and not increase GHG emissions and pollution in the near term.

This bill also needs to insure energy-intensive hydrogen production isn’t taking our current renewable resources that would be more efficiently used elsewhere. Green hydrogen should be produced using additional renewable sources.

This bill should also prohibit the blending of hydrogen into the methane gas network, which greatly increases the risk of explosion, corrosion and leaky pipes. This would also prolong our dependence on the fossil fuel system. We need to rapidly transition to using electricity for heating, cooking, etc..

As many of you know on this committee, E2 has been tracking the growth of the clean economy in Colorado and across the nation for many years. In E2’s [2022 Clean Jobs Colorado factsheet](#) we show there are more than 61,000 full-time clean jobs in Colorado, in renewable energy, energy efficiency, grid & storage, transportation and clean fuels. Colorado’s clean energy economy has proven to be a core part of the state’s economy. Producing green hydrogen by utilizing renewable electricity will expand jobs in the clean economy and could play a role in meeting our state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.

In summary, this bill needs strong guardrails to guide hydrogen investment in Colorado. Unless this bill is amended to provide these protections and others we have heard about today, I urge the committee to vote no on this bill.