

HB23-1294 Pollution Protection Measures

Thursday, April 20 2023

Senate Transportation & Energy

Testimony: Oppose

Madam Chair and fellow committee members,

My name is Summer Hill, and I am a Government Affairs Manager for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

I'm here today to express our organizations' opposition to HB23-1294.

While the bill clearly targets oil and gas - its broad sweep would affect numerous industries. If passed and signed into law, this bill would have profoundly negative consequences for our state and our economy.

Instead of considering the dozens of measures Colorado has already taken toward emission reductions, this bill compels state regulatory agencies to impose an excessively complicated regulatory environment so onerous that it would quickly grind to a halt the state's permitting process.

While the Chamber supports and understands the state transitioning to renewable energy, this is yet another blatant attack on industries that are vital to our state economy – without considering the full picture.

Colorado has been a leader in cutting emissions and improving the environment over the past decade-plus. Related industries have engaged in dozens of rulemakings before numerous regulatory bodies, with further rulemaking scheduled in the coming months and years.

While the bill has been heavily amended – we continue to oppose the measure.

Between 2019 and 2022, over 55 pieces of legislation passed at the General Assembly were aimed at complying with the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements of HB19-1261 or other climate objectives. We have an obligation to see how these bills will impact greenhouse gas emissions before we start adding more. Adding five additional bills will only further exacerbate the issue of over regulation.

We encourage the committee to vote no on this legislation.