



May 2, 2017

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Re: HB 17-1227, Electric Demand-side Management Program Extension

As large employers, trade associations, providers of energy efficient products, and major energy consumers, we understand firsthand how state energy policies affect the cost of doing business. To that end, we would like to thank you for prioritizing discussions on the advancement of energy efficiency.

All Colorado consumers and businesses benefit when we eliminate energy waste. As large employers and major energy consumers, we understand firsthand how energy policies affect the cost of doing business in Colorado. Energy efficiency and demand response programs are the lowest-cost energy resources available. For example in 2015, each dollar invested in energy efficiency saved between \$1.66-\$2.74 in avoided electricity, power, and pollution reduction costs.¹ By eliminating energy waste, we can reduce total energy costs for all customers; mitigate the impact of fuel and electricity price increases; and build a more affordable, reliable electricity system for the businesses and people of Colorado. For Colorado consumers and businesses, electricity bills will be higher if other energy resources are pursued instead of energy efficiency.

Colorado's energy efficiency programs have delivered significant value. In the nine years since the passage of House Bill 07-1037, energy efficiency investments made by Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy have delivered \$1.2 billion in net economic benefits.² All Colorado businesses and consumers experience these benefits – whether or not they participate directly in energy-saving efforts. Colorado's energy efficiency efforts are also nationally recognized, and the state ranks 12th in the country for its overall commitment to energy efficiency.³

¹ Public Utilities Commission 2016 Report to the Colorado General Assembly on Demand Side Management (DSM) Pursuant to § 40-3.2-105, C.R.S.

² Ibid at 1.

³ American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, *2016 State Efficiency Scorecard*, September 26, 2016.

We welcome efforts to improve and advance energy efficiency policy and delivery in Colorado. Businesses stand ready to work with the Assembly to support the deployment of cost-effective energy efficient technologies and services, and in doing so, to build a more robust, efficient economy for the state.

We encourage you to advance the state's energy efficiency policies – particularly by continuing the state's Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. We support HB 17-1227 because it would help give the business community the confidence to invest and grow. Some of our companies specialize in a broad range of high-technology products, solutions and services related to energy. A strong Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard provides the regulatory and market certainty we need to understand and promote opportunities for sustainability and energy efficiency on behalf of our customers and clients. A multi-year Standard also provides a degree of regulatory certainty that helps large businesses to plan ahead and make our future investment decisions.

We are grateful for the opportunity to offer these comments and welcome further discussion on how we can support your efforts to develop a robust energy efficiency policy for the state.

Sincerely,

Whirlpool Corporation

Johns Manville

Dow

New Belgium Brewing

Aspen Skiing Company

Ameresco

Schneider Electric

Honeywell

Cree Inc.

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

Air-conditioning Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)

National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)