

House Energy & Environment

03/06/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1099 Water Quality Data Standards

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeany Rush Against themselves	<p>TO: HOUSE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</p> <p>RE: HB25-1099 Water Quality Data Standards</p> <p>Sponsors: Mauro, Taggart, Hinricksen 306025 FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent</p> <p>VOTE NO</p> <p>Your words:</p> <p>The bill requires the water quality control commission, on or before January 1, 2027, to issue written guidance specific to the development of the daily maximum amount of a pollutant from all sources that is allowed to enter state waters so that an applicable water quality standard is met (total maximum daily load). The bill also requires the division of administration in the department of public health and environment, on and after January 1, 2028, to determine a total maximum daily load for state waters using credible data."</p> <p>You are naming a total maximum daily load based on pollutants from all sources, but this is not rally quantified, nor is it really based on accurate data.</p> <p>You are creating another division, to determine water quality, with standards of pollutants which are also not accurate, based on the inaccurate anti-scientific manner in which you are classifying energy pollutants, and other toxins you may or may not have defined.</p> <p>We do have water testing in place, for the state, and federal levels. While I also want clean water, I am no longer confident, nor comfortable with the state controlling all the testing, parameters. Further, with the known errors, which are certain to happen, the addition of fines, fees, penalties, which could be based on errors, this is like a serious trip down a dead end road, with no way out. It will create more cyclic, circular nightmares than it hopes to solve. The state already has more divisions, departments than it can safely, properly manage, and too much is left to chance, and interference in the lives of the public. Not to destroy water controls, but to protect the consumer, and the freedoms of the people of this state, this is a Hard NO.</p> <p>We need to better understand what is Truth, and what is being done to line more pockets of non-government entities, and private concerns, brought into the state to over CONTROL the public.</p>



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Director's Office
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
P 303.297.1192

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Sponsors of HB25-1099 and
Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee
200 E Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB25-1099 Concerning water-quality data standards for Total Maximum Daily Loads

Dear Sponsors of HB25-1099 and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) appreciates the desire to use good quality data for the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), but CPW has some concerns with the bill's language and the desire expressed by some stakeholders to use this legislation to exclude the use of data provided by CPW's River Watch program. CPW opposes this bill primarily to protect against an outcome that would limit the use of this high-quality data. CPW greatly appreciates the efforts of the bill sponsors to work with CPW to address these concerns. River Watch implements many measures within its program to ensure the water quality data it provides are accurate and usable for decision-making.

River Watch allows local communities around the state to collect high-quality data at a very low cost. River Watch participants undergo a 4-day in-person training for the low cost of \$275 per person (includes room and board). After the training, participants sign a contract agreeing to collect water samples at least once a month from a fixed location at a local stream or river for one year. Those samples are analyzed at CPW's analytical laboratory in Fort Collins using industry-standard equipment operated by Megan McConville, CPW's PhD chemist. In addition to a 4-day training, River Watch volunteers are tested twice yearly to ensure their results are accurate and follow all quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures. Annually, each group is visited on location by a River Watch employee who audits their protocols and tests their accuracy and QA/QC procedures.

River Watch volunteer groups pay nothing for supplies or analysis, which have a value of over \$10,000 per site per year. River Watch volunteers include professional CPW staff, universities, local governments, local chapters of Trout Unlimited, watershed groups, retired water quality professionals, and school groups. Much of the concern expressed over River Watch's data has been aimed at the participation of school groups. However, all of these groups undergo the same rigorous up-front and ongoing training, adults lead all school groups, and water quality professionals validate the results of all participants.



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Dallas May, Chair · Richard Reading, Vice-Chair · Karen Bailey, Secretary · Jessica Beaulieu
Marie Haskett · Tai Jacober · Jack Murphy · Gabriel Otero · Murphy Robinson · James Jay Tutchton · Eden Vardy

The recently developed Mesa County Grand Valley selenium and iron TMDL included some River Watch data in the analysis. All of these data were collected by professional CPW staff, and the results were consistent with USGS and WQCD results. River Watch data did not skew the TMDL in one direction or another but provided more geographic coverage and data across a range of flow conditions.

CPW does not oppose the creation of a guidance document describing the minimum standards for data to be used in TMDLs. Ultimately, CPW supports having low-cost, high-quality data available for decision-making to protect aquatic life and recreation in Colorado's waterbodies. CPW believes River Watch's data would meet or exceed all the requirements in that document.

CPW has proposed amendments to the bill language to address its concerns with this bill as introduced. CPW looks forward to working with the bill sponsors and other stakeholders to address data quality standards for TMDLs and appreciates the sponsors' consideration of CPW's concerns.

Sincerely,



Jeff Davis
Director
Colorado Parks and Wildlife



HB25-1099: Water Quality Data Standards

Colorado General Assembly

March 5, 2025

House Energy & Environment Committee

Mr. Chair Valdez and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 25-1099: Water Quality Data Standards. My name is Sabrina Nogula, and I am a Master of Public Health (MPH) student specializing in Environmental and Occupational Health at the Colorado School of Public Health. I also hold a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Marine Studies from Southern Connecticut State University, where I conducted research on water quality assessment and monitoring. My academic and research background has shown me firsthand the importance of reliable water quality data.

Colorado's rivers, lakes, and reservoirs are essential for public health, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife conservation. However, without uniform data collection and reporting standards, pollution levels can be miscalculated, delaying action and putting both people and natural resources at risk. HB25-1099 will establish clear, science-based data collection standards that will allow for timely and accurate identification of water contamination threats.

Rural and under-resourced communities face greater challenges accessing clean water and reliable data, placing them at greater risk of exposure to contaminants. This bill promotes transparency and accountability, ensuring that all Coloradans, regardless of location or socioeconomic status, have access to safe and clean water. Additionally, standardized total maximum daily load (TMDL) determination methods will provide clarity for scientists, regulators, and industries, leading to more effective pollution management.

As a headwaters state, Colorado supplies water to millions beyond its borders. By passing HB25-1099, the state will take a crucial step toward strengthening environmental regulations, improving water quality oversight, and setting a national precedent for evidence-based policy. I urge the committee to support this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Nogula (She/her)

Master of Public Health Student

Environmental & Occupational Health

Colorado School of Public Health - University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

HB25-1099: Water Quality Data Standards

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