



TO: **House Bill Sponsors:** Martinez, and Winter, T.
Senate Bill Sponsors: Pelton B.
Members of the Colorado House of Representatives
Representative Alex Valdez (Chair), Representative Elizabeth Velasco (Vice Chair), Representative Carlos Barron, Representative Kyle Brown, Representative Sean Camacho, Representative Ken DeGraaf, Representative Ryan Gonzalez, Representative Junie Joseph, Representative Amy Paschal, Representative Manny Rutinel, Representative Jenny Willford, Representative Dan Woog

FROM: The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)

DATE: February 19, 2025

RE: **HB25-1126 - A bill for an act- Concerning an increase in the diversity of interests represented in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission, and, in connection therewith, increasing the number of commissioners and establishing geographic regions from which certain commissioners are appointed.**

The bill increases the membership of the Public Utilities Commission from 3 to 5, with 2 of the commissioners representing the state at large and 3 representing one district each. The 3 districts are defined to include named counties, with one consisting of the Denver metro area, one of the western region of the state, and one of the eastern region of the state.

After reviewing the bill, CRES urges the Committee to vote **NO** on **HB25-1126**.

The Colorado Renewable Energy Society has been a participant at the Commission for many years. Our experience informs us that the proposal to increase the Commission's membership is an unnecessary idea, and risks unintended consequences.

New Mexico found that having 5 Commissioners was unwieldy and inefficient.

We note this July 2024 reporting by [Platt's](#):

“New Mexico is the most recent state to enact broad structural reforms to its PSC. It did so through a 2020 Constitutional Amendment - **reducing the number of commissioners on the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission from 5 to 3** and changed the process of commissioner selection from voter election by district to the use of a nominating committee and governor appointment with senate confirmation.”

In our view, we do not see a compelling case that would justify making the proposed change of composition at the PUC.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Vincent P. Calvano
CRES Policy Committee
Colorado Renewable Energy Society

HB25-1126 – PUC Membership Geographic Representation

Testimony by Alana Miller, NRDC

March 5, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB25-1126. My name is Alana Miller, and I am the Colorado climate policy director at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). NRDC has a decades-long history of working on energy issues, and we regularly intervene in utility commission proceedings at the PUC in Colorado, as well as in other states across the country.

I am writing to express NRDC's opposition to HB25-1126. While I appreciate the interest in ensuring an effective Commission, I am concerned that this approach at this time would disrupt Colorado's progress in the energy sector and create unintended consequences that could slow down the state's clean energy transition and the Commission's equity work. Instead, it would be better to consider any changes to the PUC more holistically during the upcoming sunset review process.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission has played a critical role in advancing policies that reduce emissions and transition our energy system toward cleaner, more affordable resources. Under the current structure, the PUC has helped drive meaningful progress toward clean energy while balancing reliability, affordability, and consumer protections. Additionally, the PUC is currently working to improve equity in their processes, seeking to make proceedings more accessible and transparent.

I believe that the three-member commission has proven to be effective, efficient, and representative of statewide interests. The current structure allows for a comprehensive perspective while ensuring decisions are made based on expertise, sound policy, and the public interest. Expanding to five members with geographic restrictions raises concerns about less efficient decision-making and potential politicization of the commission's work.

I appreciate the desire to ensure fairness and effectiveness in the PUC's decision-making, but overall, I do not believe that this bill is the right pathway, nor is this the right time for such a structural change. The PUC is already scheduled for a sunset review in 2026, which presents a more appropriate opportunity for a holistic and thoughtful evaluation of any potential changes to its structure or operations.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote against HB25-1126 and allow the upcoming sunset process to guide any future structural reforms.

Thank you.

Alana Miller
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