

**House Energy & Environment**

**02/19/2026 01:30 PM**

**HB26-1129 Gas Utility Service**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Ariel Michaeli For themselves</p>	<p>As an Xcel customer, I am writing to demand your full support for HB26-1129. For too long, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and radical special interest groups have treated the energy budgets of families as a laboratory for authoritarian social experiments. HB26-1129 ends this.</p> <p>Colorado is facing a major affordability problem in all aspects of life, not the least of which is the cost of in-home utilities, which includes, substantially, natural gas. The current "Clean Heat" mandates are nothing more than a hidden tax on every Coloradan who uses a furnace to stay warm. It is unacceptable that state policy currently forces utilities to plan for the elimination of residential gas service—a move that will inevitably exacerbate our already skyrocketing bills, and force mandatory replacement of home appliances that many constituents simply cannot afford.</p> <p>End Forced Electrification: This bill ends the "de-facto" ban on gas infrastructure. It is utterly callous that bureaucrats are forcing the people of Colorado to move away from safe affordable natural gas to expensive electricity. Electricity rates have risen by over 15% in just the past 4 years and the PUC wants to continue those increases. I know that the politicians are aware of the rising rates and still continue to force people to electrify knowing that this will drive rates up EVEN FURTHER. If you are ignoring this reality, you have no soul.</p> <p>Safety: Opposing this bill is opposing safety. By allowing utilities to recover costs for "System Safety and Integrity Projects" without endless bureaucratic delay, this bill ensures our infrastructure is secure. Delaying these projects for political optics is risking public safety in an effort to politically grandstand. If you are ignoring this reality, you have no soul.</p> <p>End Energy Poverty: Colorado utility rates are already climbing at an alarming rate. By exempting the residential sector from these lunatic carbon targets, you are finally doing right by the people you claim to represent rather than appeal to the ideological fantasy of a lunatic fringe of environmental activists. Support this bill and you may actually reclaim some of your humanity.</p> <p>This bill is not just common-sense, it is morally correct. The idea that "allowing Coloradans to affordably and safely heat their homes" is even up for debate, that this issue has even gotten this far is a moral stain on this legislative body. I urge you to do the right thing and support HB26-1129.</p>

<p>Tate Griffin For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Tate Griffin and I am writing in support of HB26-1129. I am a quadriplegic dependent on electricity for various medical equipment and the electrical grid in Colorado is becoming less and less reliable as shown by recent power outages. Additional demands on the grid will make the problem worse. Forcing someone like me to use a less reliable form of heat (electrical) when natural gas is much more reliable will make life even more difficult. Natural gas is also a cheaper option for many families already struggling financially. I urge the committee to pass HB26-1129 and move the bill forward.</p>
<p>Chad Cormell For themselves</p>	<p>Pass this bill and stop the insanity of making life more expensive for the citizens that live in Colorado. Natural Gas is one of the most efficient and cost effective ways to heat our homes. Many seniors are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to heat their homes with electric.</p>
<p>Tanner Houston For themselves</p>	<p>We need multiple sources of energy, not just electric. Our power grid has issues, thousands of families lost power just months ago, that would have been generally during freezing temps. To rely so heavily on electric should be considered gross negligence and a disservice to all Colorado residents.</p>
<p>Heather Garvert For themselves</p>	<p>It is very important for Coloradans to be able to have a choice for heating. I am in favor of this bill that eliminates carbon emissions from natural gas heating in residential from the equation. Heat pumps can't efficiently or economically heat homes when temperatures drop as the green energy push in Colorado. The electrical grid can't keep up now: natural gas has to remain an option for Colorado residents to be able to heat their homes reliably, and economically. Electrical heat shouldn't be forced on residents.</p>
<p>Brittany Perrotto For themselves</p>	<p>Colorado is getting so expensive I have friends and family moving because they can't afford to stay! Stop the green scam and help out our families!</p>
<p>Vicki Kahler Against themselves</p>	<p>We are seniors living on a fixed income. This bill will raise our rates so high we would be forced out of our home! It will also force lower income people to be homeless because they won't be able to afford the higher rates either! This would be a tragedy! You cannot pass this bill!</p>
<p>Sheri Shoemaker For themselves</p>	<p>I support this. We have to be able to keep heat affordable for Colorado. Natural gas is cheaper, burns cleaner and is far more effective and efficient than electric pump heat systems! Many of us can not afford this change and will force many people into cold homes.</p>

<p>Heidi Leathwood Against 350 Colorado</p>	<p>I hope to speak on zoom, but I am submitting this in case I must leave before my name is called. Thank you!</p> <p>Hello Chair Valdez and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm Heidi Leathwood, climate policy analyst for 350 Colorado. I'm here to urge you on behalf of our 20,000 members to vote no on HB26-1129.</p> <p>Our current laws and rules support making it easier and encouraging (not requiring) residential consumers to move away from using gas for home energy use. Eliminating these efforts to shift residential fuel use away from natural gas, and in fact allowing incentivizing new gas hookups, would expand our gas infrastructure at a time we have committed to reducing it, and it would miss a huge opportunity to help consumers heat their homes in a safer, more affordable, more sustainable way. 75% of Coloradans want strong climate action from you - our leaders, and also want to do what they can as individuals. Most people support this shift that Colorado has committed to and would like to move away from their own fossil fuel use. There are current and planned programs available to help with upfront costs and let's be clear, heat pumps lead to energy cost savings for consumers.</p> <p>Moving to another reason it does not make sense to remove residential emissions from Clean Heat Plans. The bill does not change the emissions reduction requirements in Colorado law for gas utilities and clean heat plans, it just shifts the burden of emissions reductions to commercial and industrial uses. 40-50% of covered emissions are from the residential sector. Removing them from the equation would double the emissions reductions required from commercial and industrial gas use adding tens of thousands in costs per business and up to a million in costs per industrial user by 2040. Costs they will pass on to consumers.</p> <p>It would also raise costs to the state in relitigating already existing Clean Heat Plans, and additional regulatory proceedings</p> <p>Please stand firm and do not reverse course on the laws in place for emissions reductions from home, commercial and industrial energy use. I urge you to vote no on HB26-1129</p>
<p>jeany rush For themselves</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE RE: HB26-1129 GAS UTILITY SERVICE SPONSORS: BARRON, FLANELL, KIRKMEYER, PELTON,B. FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO CONSTITUENT, 3-29-26 VOTE: YES</p> <p>Having a gas distribution utility be able to exempt carbon dioxide emissions resulting from combustion of gas in residential use is a good plan. Further, It should be acknowledged by PUC, which is still operating on a False,</p>

	<p>Pseudo Emissions, Clean Energyâ€” edicts put forth by the PUC, which ignores that CO2 is not a pollutant, but life giving need! The Entire State Energy Policy is based on falsehoods, and proven fauxâ€” ideas!</p> <p>The State and PUC have literally created a vulnerable, wrong-headed energy program which punishes the most reliable and necessary energy sources of coal, oil, gas. All of that should be revised, but as seen in the votes, so far, the PUC and state have not done anything to re-designate â€œWhat is clean Energyâ€” and ps: nuclear is not clean, should not be getting subsidy for future private companies at our expense, when our kids will be paying for storage, and issues.</p> <p>Having an ability to provide incentives to customers should be a commerce issue, so good to allow that as well.</p> <p>This bill also reminds us that there are some very manipulative energy policies targeting coal, oil, gas in this state, and literally lay us out as very vulnerable in the grid. This will be very important in the future energy planning of Colorado.</p>
<p>Matt Quinn For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Energy &amp; Environment Committee,</p> <p>My name is Matt Quinn. I am a five-year resident and homeowner in Denver, father of two children born here, and someone who works closely with middle-class Denverites, including immigrant neighbors. Denver is now one of America's most expensive cities, and families like ours are struggling with soaring costs for housing, food, and utilities.</p> <p>I strongly support HB26-1129, which exempts residential natural gas CO2 emissions from clean heat plans. This bill maintains affordable, reliable heating while advancing Colorado's environmental goals and protecting equity.</p> <p>First, it prevents energy poverty for working families. In high-cost Denver, switching to electric heating could raise annual bills from \$500-700 (natural gas) to \$1,200-2,500 (electric), plus major retrofit costs. These hikes force impossible choices between heat and essentials, clashing with economic justice.</p> <p>Second, it safeguards vulnerable groups like low-income households, immigrants, seniors, and families with kids. Many already spend over 10% of income on utilities. Rapid electrification risks \$20,000+ upfront costs per home, leaving marginalized communities behind as wealthier ones transition. The bill allows time for fair subsidies so green benefits reach everyone.</p> <p>Third, it ensures reliability in our harsh winters. Natural gas provides heat during power outages from storms, preventing health risks like hypothermia, especially for young children. It complements renewables as a resilient backup.</p> <p>Finally, the bill offers a balanced path to emissions cuts without massive cost hikes (up to 112% statewide, adding billions in expenses). It enables targeted incentives for new builds while protecting existing homes.</p> <p>Please pass HB26-1129 to uphold Colorado's progressive values: sustainability without sacrificing affordability or equity for families like mine.</p>

<p>Greg Perrotto For themselves</p>	<p>How absurd it is to require residential homes to be switched to electrical heat when a huge majority has been on natural gas forever!</p> <p>I want to keep natural gas affordable &amp; avoid forced switches to expensive electric heat pumps!</p> <p>Residential homes should be exempt from emissions from Clean Heat mandates and keep our gas bills from skyrocketing compliance costs.</p>
<p>James Baker For themselves</p>	<p>I am strongly in favor of this bill. We built a relatively recent home in 2013-2014 following all guidelines at the time. We left out air conditioning and went with radiant hot water heating. Now the Public Utilities Commission is changing the rules just 11 years later. When at some point we have to replace our water heater it will cost excessively more, if they even make an electric version that will do the job. The sole decision of 3 unelected bureaucrats essentially voids the replacement of the heating system for my house, which I think is unconscionable, and I support HB26-1129 to take residential houses out of this PUC decision.</p>