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Testimony: SB17-022 Rural Economic Advancement of Colorado Towns
Senate Finance

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Good afternoon, Chairman Neville, Vice Chairman Hill, Senator Donovan and members of the committee.

My name is Dorothy Ostrogorski.

I am the Manager of Public Affairs at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. Thank you so much for having me today.

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce represents over 3000 large, medium and small employers throughout Colorado, who combined employ over 300,000 employees. For 150 years, the Chamber has been the voice for both small and large businesses across the state.

I'm here today in support of Senate Bill 22. We believe that when it comes to our economy, what's good for Colorado including rural Colorado, is good for the Denver Region.

There is no question that in the Denver Region our economy continues to grow at a steady pace. Today we are thriving: we are growing companies, jobs and a strong workforce. However,

our rural cities and towns have not seen the same rate of economic growth.

When job losses occur in rural parts of the state, the economic impacts are magnified. This bill proposes a balanced way to mitigate job losses and the related impacts through nonmonetary resources and grant awards through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

As rural parts of our state continue to work hard to attract and retain jobs it is important that the appropriate state agency supports such efforts and Senate Bill 22 is a sensible vehicle to do just that.

We know that the more diversified a rural economy is, the better chance it has of adding jobs and sustaining growth over the long haul. This proposal helps enhance economic diversity through one more economic development tool available to rural communities.

We ask you to support Senate Bill 22.

Thank you.