Thank you, Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee. My name is Dorothy Ostrogorski and I serve as the Director of Public Affairs at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing over 3,000 businesses and their 300,000 employees. I am also speaking on behalf of the Colorado Competitive Council which is a statewide affiliate of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

I’m here today to express our gratitude to Senator Gardner and Majority Leader Becker (as the House sponsor) for bringing a reasonable and necessary fix to the unintentional drafting error of Senate Bill 267 last session. And to urge this Committee’s support for Senate Bill 88.

Senate Bill 88 puts in place a clear direction for organizations impacted by the error to move forward in collecting taxes and we firmly support their ability to do so.

As you know, the Regional Transportation District, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District and the Health Services District were among those most adversely affected when Senate Bill 267 inadvertently eliminated their ability to levy sales taxes on retail marijuana sales.
From health care providers in Montezuma, to cultural institutions across the front range, to transportation districts from the metro area to San Miguel, to housing in Summit County, these are critical community providers.

We support our special districts. We ask that you not punish them, and the thousands of Coloradans who rely on them, by delaying this fix.

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 88. Thank you.