

HB22-1304 State Grants Investments Local Affordable Housing

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

House Transportation & Local Government 1:30 pm | Room LSB-A (2)

Written Testimony: Support

Thank you, Mister Chair and members of the committee, my name is Matt Gorenc, and I'm government affairs manager at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I submit this written testimony on behalf of the Chamber and our statewide affiliate organization the Colorado Competitive Council (C3) in support of House Bill 1304.

Housing prices are skyrocketing, and housing inventory is scarce. Affordable housing is needed in our state now more than ever, and we applaud the state legislature for making efforts to increase housing supply and assist Colorado's workforce in this matter.

Providing grants to non-profits and local governments is an effective way to increase housing inventory. We support efforts that reward developers for producing severely needed housing products, so our competitive workforce has an affordable place to call home. This is an appropriate use of ARPA funds because it will increase resources for local governments to complete infill projects, which gets the wheels turning on developing affordable housing. This bill also benefits non-profits that are hard at work supplying affordable housing options for our state, helping our economy remain healthy and our workforce competitive.

Colorado employers cite a lack of talented workforce as a threat to our prosperity and strong economy. The state needs to do all it can to retain our highly-skilled workforce, and creating incentives to develop affordable housing is an effective way of doing just that.

We urge the members of this committee to vote yes on this bill.