

HB22-1244 Public Protections From Toxic Air Contaminants

Thursday, April 7, 2022

House Energy & Environment 1:30 pm | Room LSB-A (2)

Written Testimony: Oppose

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Summer Hill, and I'm a Government Affairs Manager at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

I am here today on behalf of the Chamber to express our opposition to House Bill 1244.

The Chamber supports initiatives that contribute to a healthy lifestyle for Colorado residents. The Denver Metro area is a place so many people flock to precisely for that reason—we have a great quality of life, world-class amenities, access to unbelievable outdoor activities, and a strong economy.

But this bill threatens that same strong economy that is such a draw for so many. While the Chamber understands it is a strategic imperative to maintain a high quality of life for our residents, this bill creates a nightmare for our businesses. House Bill 1244 would make Colorado a national outlier by divorcing our state from the federal "Clean Air Act." By being more aggressive on air quality standards and enforcement mechanisms, we put every Colorado business at a disadvantage compared to their national counterparts operating on a different set of rules.

Further, as a business community we are keenly aware of the expansion of authority to unelected regulatory bodies because the cost of operationalizing their oversight and the price of compliance fall on us. We strongly oppose giving even more authority to bureaucratic agencies that are not accountable to voters. In this unique case, we are also strongly opposed to giving them more discretion than even the EPA enjoys.

We understand that clean air is essential to the Colorado way of life. We are supporting Senate Bill 193 because we recognize the importance of investing in our environment. However, House Bill 1244 is *not* an invitation to the business community to innovate, partner and meaningfully engage on the issue of air quality. Rather, HB 1244 is another significant burden on our business community.

We urge the members of this committee to vote no on this bill.