



HB22-1355 Producer Responsibility Program For Recycling

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Energy & Environment

1:30 p.m. Room LSB-A

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 1355.

We recognize that Colorado is not a national leader in recycling. This is certainly an area of growth for our state and an opportunity for producers who are struggling to get materials to support their business models in the face of supply chain shortages. However, House Bill 1355 goes well beyond a simple recycling solution.

The fiscal note on this bill does not reflect the impact a producer responsibility program has on the consumer. According to [a study](#) done by York University in Ontario of the costs of PRO in Canada and New York, the average cost increase to the consumer for a basket of goods is 4-6%. At a time when the US is experiencing inflation at a rate of 7.9%, every extra increase hurts working folks.

The impact on producers is also a cause for concern. Colorado producers will have to pay for the operational expenses of the PRO and we don't yet have a clear picture of how much this bill will cost small businesses and distributors around the state. This change would significantly disadvantage Colorado businesses competing with out-of-state producers.

We cannot ask the business community, already struggling with snarled supply chains, workforce shortages, and surging inflation, to also shoulder the cost of revolutionizing the state's recycling program. We also believe that, while recycling is important, we cannot bestow such broad authority on a nongovernmental group. This bill authorizes a third-party nonprofit organization to collect fees on businesses and requires producers to participate in the nonprofit if they want to distribute products throughout the state. We believe this raises constitutional questions about mandatory participation in nongovernmental programs and are concerned that such a precedent could have consequences for many industries.

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

