

April 20, 2023

House Energy and Environment Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Support SB23-016 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures as amended (Sen. Hansen, Rep. McCormick, and Rep. Sirota)

Madame Chair Kipp, Vice Chair Willford, and Members of the Committee:

Western Resource Advocates (WRA) works to protect the West's land, air, and water. For more than 30 years WRA has crafted policy solutions to address climate change. We support policies that cost-effectively drive down greenhouse gas emissions, improve our air quality, and protect the health of our communities. We are grateful to Representatives McCormick and Sirota, and Senator Hansen for bringing this bill forward.

Addressing climate change is critical for our state's economic success. While Colorado has made important progress on climate change in recent years, we still have a long way to go to reach our greenhouse gas reduction goals set by the General Assembly in 2019.

WRA supports SB23-016 because it:

- Establishes new milestone interim targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, which will help the state stay on track toward its ambitious targets, and that align with our state's GHG emission reduction goals and establishes a 100% reduction target by 2050;
- Creates a point-of-sale tax rebate program for electric-powered lawn, leaf and snow equipment purchased between 2024 and 2026;
- Directs the Colorado Energy Transmission Authority (CETA) to examine transmission resources to maximize the potential of existing transmission and address the need for increased capacity;
- Empowers the CETA with the ability to evaluate and implement transmission infrastructure upgrades with the goal of making the most efficient use of existing facilities. This bill would also encourage efficient and environmentally sustainable means of using existing right of way; and
- Enhances the ability for new renewable energy and storage facilities to be added to the electric grid in a reliable manner.

Senate Bill 23-016 is an important next step in our state's efforts to address the effects and causes of climate change and to continue our progress towards a sustainable and decarbonized economy.

We thank House Energy and Environment Committee members for your consideration, and we urge you to vote "yes" on SB23-016.

Sincerely,

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