

Re: **SB26-182 Municipal Utility Climate Goal Backsliding** – May 5, 2026

To: Senate Sponsors Mark Snyder Cleave Simpson  
House Sponsors Jarvis Caldwell Amy Paschal  
House Transport Committee Members:  
Meg Froelich, Rebecka Stewart, Andrew Boesenecker, Max Brooks, Jamie Jackson,  
Mandy Lindsay, Kenny Nguyen, Amy Paschal, Jacque Phillips, Chris Richardson, Larry  
Don Suckla, Elizabeth Velasco, Ron Weinberg

Thank you for the good work towards reducing the pollution in our communities and towards meeting emission goals to reduce climate change impacts on our neighbors.

I advocate for the reduction of emissions that are causing our communities to be polluted in the vast Denver/Front Range Severe Ozone Pollution Area, and for the reduction of emissions from burning fossil fuels that cause climate change and contribute to the Severe Ozone Pollution.

**Background on the Severe Ozone Pollution - Denver/Front Range Non-Attainment area:**

- More air pollution effects more people and costs our communities – in 2022 the bad air we breathe went from ‘serious’ to ‘severe’ according to the EPA and the State Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC).
- About 4 million people live and breathe the pollution in the Severe Ozone non-attainment area – about 80% of states population - 9 counties including: Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Adams, Douglas, Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer, Weld.
- This pollution causes breathing problems, asthma, lung damage, cardiac issues, heart attacks, and premature deaths, and represents a terrible cost to our communities.
  - Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI) in the 2023 Clearing the Air Report estimated additional health related costs and lost workdays in Colorado to **range \$480 million-\$1 billion per year.**
  - CFI in the 2026 Colorado Climate Damages and Adaptation Cost Report estimated historical Colorado costs attributable to excess heat (1999-2024) to be about \$200 million per year and estimated future expected heat related climate attributable death costs to range from **\$730 million to \$830 million per year.**
  - CFI in their 2026 report estimated that future Colorado expected climate related costs to be **roughly \$1.5 billion per year.**

**As a private citizen I urge you to vote against SB26-182:**

1. This bill would create a **precedent and the opportunity for more climate backsliding** requests from other groups.
2. This bill would **raise costs and customer energy bills**, maintaining coal/fossil fuel burning plants is more expensive than deploying new renewables and storage.
3. This bill would **exacerbate health issues and health costs** from local air pollution and climate change. Our communities deserve clean air and are choking under the avoidable costs of health care.

4. Building and maintaining renewable energy sources will also increase the number of jobs and that is good for the community.

Sincerely,

Ted Wells  
President [ClimateUnified.org](http://ClimateUnified.org)