SB21-200 Reduce Greenhouse Gases Increase Environmental Justice
Tuesday, April 20 2021
SENATE TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY COMMITTEE
Testimony from Kelly Brough, President and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide this written testimony today. My name is Kelly Brough and I am the president and CEO Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I write today on behalf of the Chamber, our 3,000 members and their 400,000 employees, to express opposition to Senate Bill 200.

We know that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced and many of our employers have taken steps to do just that. But this bill causes serious concerns because it creates hard targets that don't take into account all the work and challenges happening today, including the Governor's own stakeholder process to inform his greenhouse gas reduction plan, existing goals in place and current technology needs. Of greatest concern is the hard targets for specific industries in this bill do not ultimately reduce carbon emissions for our region, but rather shift those emissions from one part of the industry to another. Rather than building on the work done to date including HB 1261, Senate Bill 200 requires some sectors to actually start over, particularly in the utility sector. It would establish an unrealistic 100-percent greenhouse gas emission reduction requirement for the utility sector by 2040, a target we all know can't be met with the current technology available.

Further, this legislation did not go through a robust stakeholder outreach process—a process that could have addressed carbon-shifting concerns and would have raised the need for consumer and reliability protections.

Colorado is leading the nation in its groundbreaking efforts. SB 200 gets in the way more than it would help or strengthen the process. This bill circumvents the process in place today, clouds the progress made to date, removes flexibility and discourages innovation. We encourage you to vote no on SB 200.