

**TESTIMONY OF NICHOLAS G. MULLER**  
**Regarding 10SB-19**  
**March 3, 2010**

My name is Nicholas G. Muller, and I am Executive Director of the Colorado Independent Energy Association (CIEA). It is made up of more than 40 members, and a list of them is attached. CIEA has been a leading trade group for independent power producers in Colorado since being formed in 1991. CIEA's members provide half the electric generation in Xcel's territory here and they own most of the renewable energy projects in Colorado. They take the risk of building these projects and selling their electric output to the utilities in Colorado including Xcel and Tri-State. These investments by them lead to new jobs here and new taxes for the State and the local communities where they build plants.

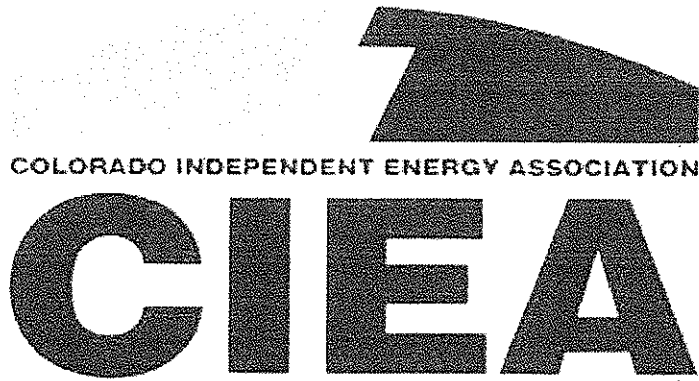
Among CIEA's members are about a half dozen who develop small hydroelectric power projects – these are renewable projects just as are wind and solar projects being developed here. We are testifying in favor of SB-19, mainly for its provisions applicable to hydro projects that are 10MW or less. Our members support this bill because it is intended to cause small hydro projects to get the same property tax treatment as was given by the Legislature to solar projects last year and to wind projects the year before. All three of these types of projects are very comparable. They are all renewable projects.

Our CIEA members have hydro projects that are small and do not have the environmental impacts that large hydro projects do with their large dams. Small hydro projects range in size from .2MW up to 10MW, but most are the much smaller category. A number of these projects were the first to be certified in the US.

Thank you for your time.



Nicholas G. Muller  
Executive Director, CIEA



## **COLORADO INDEPENDENT ENERGY ASSOCIATION**

### **CIEA MEMBERS**

AES Wind Generation  
Alliance Power  
Beowulf Energy  
Berrendo Wind Energy  
BP Alternative Energy  
Bridal Veil Powerstation  
Calpine Corporation  
Capital Power / Thermo Power  
Chevron Energy Solutions  
City of Boulder  
Cleantech America  
Cogentrix Energy  
Colorado Energy Management  
Compass Wind  
Denver Water  
Distributed Generation Systems  
E.ON Climate & Renewables  
Element Power  
enXco  
Fort Chicago  
GE Energy Financial Services  
Horizon Wind Energy  
Iberdrola Renewables  
Invenergy  
Landmark Holdings  
LS Power Development  
MMR Group  
NextEra Energy Resources  
NextLight Renewable Power  
North American Power Group

### **CIEA MEMBERS (continued)**

Pattern Energy Group  
Pristine Power  
Ptarmigan Resources & Energy  
Renewable Energy Systems  
Southwest Generation Operating Company  
Sun Edison  
Terra-Gen Power  
Thermo Cogeneration Partnership  
TradeWind Energy  
Tri Global Energy  
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

### **CIEA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Blattner Construction  
Brownstein | Hyatt | Farber | Schreck  
Colorado Working Landscapes  
Dietze & Davis  
E3 Consulting  
Harris Group  
Headwaters  
Holland & Hart  
Holme, Roberts & Owen  
Land Use Experts  
M.A. Mortenson  
RBI/Robertson-Bryan Inc  
RW Beck  
SEH  
Wartsila  
Willis / HRH