



Kelly Brough
President and CEO,
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

House Bill 15-1388

**Sponsors: Representative Dan Pabon and Representative Bob Rankin
and Senator Chris Holbert and Senator Andy Kerr
House Finance**

April 29, 2015

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Kelly Brough and I am the president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing over 3,000 businesses and their 300,000 employees. For nearly 150 years, the Chamber has been the voice for both small and large businesses across the seven-county metro region.

I am here today in strong support of HB 1388. This bill takes a common sense approach to maybe a once in a lifetime opportunity to refinance a substantial portion of the unfunded liability in PERA.

By taking advantage of historic low interest rates to acquire a significant cash infusion into the PERA system through issuing bonds, PERA moves significantly closer to having the resources in its control to fulfill its obligation to its beneficiaries. To our businesses, this makes perfect sense. This is an opportunity to essentially refinance a significant portion of PERA's "debt", its unfunded liability. This bill relies on an existing and stable revenue source, the employees and employers contributions to PERA, but greatly increases the impact of those contributions on PERA's financial position by providing the revenues to pay the debt service on the bonds, but at a lower interest rate.

We applaud the efforts of the legislature, the leadership of PERA and Treasurer Stapleton for working to bring this legislation forward and urge your Yes vote on HB 1388. Thank you and I am happy to answer questions.