



TO: Members of the House State, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

FROM: Douglas Holland, representing the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club

REGARDING: Senate Bill SB15-44: Concerning a Reduction in Colorado's Renewable Energy Standard.

Dear Committee members;

My name is Douglas Holland, and I represent the Legislative Committee of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has stood for conservation since 1892, and has more than 50,000 members in Colorado. We oppose the passage of Senate Bill 44, which would roll back Colorado's renewable energy standards. SB 44 would unwind years of progress that Colorado has made, leading the nation in development of renewable energy. Furthermore, this bill would put the jobs of thousands of Coloradans at risk, and undermine billions of dollars of Colorado business.

Colorado has been a leader in renewable energy since 2004, when voters chose to make Colorado the first state in the nation with a renewable energy standard. 29 states and the District of Columbia have followed Colorado's lead, establishing their own renewable energy standards. Since then, Colorado has strengthened its standard twice, driving innovation in sustainable energy for Colorado's future.

Thanks to the standard, Colorado can now boast of creating over 22,000 clean energy jobs. Furthermore, Colorado's investments in wind energy have paid off, saving Xcel energy customers \$25 million since 2009. Xcel Energy has stepped up, and is currently projected to exceed the goal of generating 30% of its energy through renewable sources. Xcel and other energy companies are now investing in wind and solar power because it is most cost-effective for them. Colorado's leadership in renewable energy has made these technologies competitive.

Clean energy isn't just good for the environment, it's good for the economy. Colorado's leadership in renewable energy has paid off handsomely, and reversing those gains by rolling back the state's renewable energy standards would be a mistake. For these reasons, we urge this committee to reject Senate Bill 44. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Holland  
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