



January 13, 2025

Rep. Elizabeth Velasco
Sen. Marc Catlin
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

RE: House Bill 25-1077

Dear Representative Velasco and Senator Catlin:

We would ask for your support of House Bill 25-1077 developed by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee during the interim to address provisions of a bill passed in 2024 that would leave Aspen and many other areas in rural Colorado unable to maintain compliance with the state's cross connection control rules. As you know, HB24-1344 would allow only licensed plumbers to inspect, test or install backflow preventors. This compromise bill will allow certified technicians to inspect, test and repair backflow preventors, while still requiring licensed plumbers to install and remove backflow prevention devices.

Only four companies on the Aspen list of 50+ certified backflow inspectors are licensed plumbers who would be able to meet the requirements of HB24-1344.

Without the temporary stay on enforcement of last year's law and new legislation that will rectify the requirement for backflow inspections to be completed by a master or journeyman plumber, the City of Aspen's ability to reach state compliance every year would be extremely compromised. Each year a public water system must ensure that at least 90% of the backflow devices (more than 3,900+) are tested or inspected and no device can be uninspected for more than 2 consecutive years. Aspen does not own the devices, customers do, and the devices are tested by these outside certified testing firms.

Aspen is a part of the Colorado Water Utility Council and is in support of the letter sent on behalf of that organization to the bill sponsors.

We appreciate your attention in this matter and urge your support for House Bill 25-1077.

Sincerely,

Mayor Torre

City of Aspen Mayor