



March 21, 2021

Senator Kerry Donovan
State Capital Building
200 East Colfax Avenue RM 346
Denver, CO 80203
kerry.donovan.senate@state.co.us

Vote “YES” HB21-1131
CONCERNING GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS

Dear Senator Donovan:

As HB21-1131 makes progress, we respectfully request your “aye” on the prize. As your fellow Transportation & Energy committee members must recognize, all Coloradans are impacted by the activities of power suppliers. The ten-fold bullet-pointed list of what 1131 eliminates, requires, allows, clarifies and defines is important, yet what remains germane is key to prioritizing policies that put Coloradans at the center of decision making: minimizing disparities in growing the clean economy especially for historically marginalized communities and enhancing equitable outcomes for all.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission, the state’s second largest utility, is a generation and transmission (G&T) supplying wholesale power to 20+ distribution cooperatives (co-op) throughout the state. This legislation before you would provide consumers with transparent governance access to Tri-State. As supporters of the Governor’s clean energy goals and leaders in the clean energy space ourselves, we applaud the bill’s intention to ensure G&T cooperatives are subject to transparency regulations.

Holy Cross Energy supports this bill. As purchasers of electricity from Holy Cross, a co-op, and a community reliant on stable climate conditions, we embrace this bill because it ensures decisions being made about energy supply at various co-ops throughout the state are aligned with the will of the people they serve. Further, this regulation will remove the exemption for co-ops with fewer than 25,000 members.

A vote for HB21-1131 will expand the ability of electric cooperatives to independently purchase local renewable electricity and take other steps to reduce carbon pollution. As a community that depends on stable climate conditions, supports Colorado’s renewable energy goals, and recognizes the importance of transparent governance and equitable access, the City of Aspen and Pitkin County support HB21-1131 because it will provide Coloradans served by electric cooperatives with a greater voice in decisions that impact all Coloradans, resulting in a more equitable and sustainable energy future.

DocuSigned by:

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RACHAEL RICHARDS,
ASPEN CITY COUNCIL
Torre, Mayor, Ward Hauenstein, Mayor
Pro-tem, Skippy Mesirow, Ann Mullins

DocuSigned by:

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KELLY McNICHOLAS KURY, CHAIR
PITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Patti Clapper, Vice Chair, Steve Child
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