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El Paso County, CO



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RESOLUTION NO. 21-172

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF EL PASO, STATE OF COLORADO

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 21-200: REDUCE GREENHOUSE  
GASES INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 30-10-101(1), 30-11-103, and 30-11-107, the Board of County Commissioners of El Paso County, Colorado ("County" or "Board"), has the legislative authority to manage the concerns of the County and to exercise such other and further powers as are conferred by law; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of said authority, the Board previously adopted the 2021 El Paso County State Legislative Policy Guide ("Policy") by way of Resolution No. 21-42; and

WHEREAS, the Policy, in part, sets forth the process by which the Board may formally support or oppose any state legislation proposed for calendar year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously provided direction to staff that they oppose Senate Bill 21-200; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to ratify its direction by way of formal letter, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, State of Colorado, County of El Paso, hereby officially opposes Senate Bill 21-200.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board formally adopts the attached letter as its official position opposing Senate Bill 21-200.

DONE THIS 4th day of May, 2021, at Colorado Springs, Colorado.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

By: *Stanley Underway*  
Chair

EL PASO COUNTY COLORADO

Letter Opposing SB21-200: Reduce Greenhouse Gases Increase Environmental Justice

May 4, 2021
719-520-7276
Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Board of County Commissioners

Holly Williams, District 1
Carrie Geitner, District 2
Stan VanderWerf, District 3
Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., District 4
Cami Bremer, District 5

May 4, 2021

Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax RM 029
Denver, CO 80203-1716

Honorable Legislators,

The El Paso County Board of Commissioners is writing to express its opposition to Senate Bill 21-200. This legislation, if passed, would result in significant consequences to the state's economy and is the wrong solution for Colorado.

In 2019, the General Assembly passed HB19-1261: Climate Action Plan To Reduce Pollution. This bill set statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution reduction goals and requires the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) to adopt rules and regulations for statewide GHG pollution reduction. Passage of this legislation radically altered the landscape of the energy economy in Colorado by setting some of the strongest statutory targets in the country. It left communities that rely on energy jobs and associated revenue on edge and uncertain about what the future holds.

Senate Bill 200 not only speeds up the timeframe for meeting reduction goals laid out in HB19-1261, but it also adds GHG to the definition of regulated pollutants and directs the AQCC to establish a fee on emissions. The bill specifically targets wholesale generation and transmission electric cooperatives, which means that the costs incurred through this legislation will not be absorbed but will be passed down to ratepayers at a time when Colorado is trying to pull itself out of the economic recession caused by COVID-19.

This bill gives an unelected board (AQCC) unprecedented control over decision making and enforcement, with little oversight or accountability. This is extremely concerning to the El Paso County Board of Commissioners. This bill is so bad that even Governor Polis is strongly opposed, saying that the approach required in SB21-200 would disrupt the implementation and execution of the current GHG roadmap. With prior legislation already in place, there is absolutely no need for this bill.

For the reasons listed above, we strongly ask you vote to postpone this bill indefinitely.

Sincerely,

Stan VanderWerf, Chair

Cami Bremer, Vice-Chair

Longinos Gonzalez, Member

Holly Williams, Member

Carrie Geitner, Member