

*Tom Jankovsky, Chair*  
District 1

*Perry Will, Chair Pro Tem*  
District 2

*Mike Samson*  
District 3



March 30, 2025

Honorable Members of the State Legislature  
200 E Colfax Ave,  
Denver, CO 80203

***Re: Late bill status for 2040 Clean Energy Plan legislation***

Dear Senate President James Coleman, Senate Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez, Senate Minority Leader Paul Lundeen, Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie, House Majority Leader Monica Duran, and House Minority Leader Rose Pugliese:

The Garfield County Board of County Commissioners place our full support behind the extensive actions to advance progress towards Colorado clean energy and emissions reduction goals. As you are aware, energy providers (utilities) have developed and begun to implement Clean Energy Plans/Electric Resource Plans seeking to meet or exceed 80% emissions reduction by 2030 goals, and have taken substantial steps to try and drive emissions reductions across different sectors of the economy they serve.

Labor interests have brought the workforce to build the infrastructure necessary for the energy transition and other entities who have built or supported clean energy projects and infrastructure to help serve Colorado customers through their respective energy providers.

As Commissioners, we ask that you ***not grant*** late bill status for legislation that would preemptively advance the clean energy targets for the power sector forward a full decade, from 2050 to 2040—not because we don't think it may be possible to get there, but because we have to build out the framework thoughtfully, and with intention, to ensure that the energy transition doesn't needlessly result in soaring energy costs. We are focused on affordably achieving the clean energy target yet in front of us in 2030, which remains our most pressing endeavor. Any acceleration of the clean energy targets will require extensive discussion, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration to get the policy right. When done correctly, and with our input, that is exactly what we have proven we can do in this State.

We were surprised this week to see a draft that was well over sixty pages and reflecting little to no input from the parties who have signed this letter. While we have had minimal time to review in detail – our collective first read leads us to believe, amongst several concerns, that this draft seriously risks driving energy costs higher at a time when our State is already nearing an affordability crisis. This is of particular concern for Colorado's rural and economically-disadvantaged communities.

Customer impacts and reliability must be top of mind as we continue forward with the energy transition. We all play key roles in the provisions of power and the development of electric generation projects and related infrastructure. We are all also seeing a paradigm shift in the demand for power, cost increases across all energy technology types, supply chain challenges to secure critical equipment, and geopolitical activity that drives cost changes in the supply of power. Each one of these items are critical considerations that must factor into legislation of the magnitude that a net-zero 2040 bill implicates—and will take time. Such an endeavor is not feasible or advisable during this 2025 legislative session.

We can grow the Colorado economy; create family-supporting jobs for the lineworkers, pipefitters, electricians, laborers, and all workers that ensure power is available every day; *and* continue the energy transition. All of the dynamics enumerated above affect the cost and reliability of the power that serves Coloradans. We need to consider ways to facilitate a just transition for Colorado communities and opportunities for Colorado workforce. We need to proactively attract new economic development to the State. If we do not get the next clean energy policies structured correctly there is potential to miss out on economic growth for Colorado, stall the energy transition if costs rise and reliability suffers, and fail our communities by not being purposeful about a just transition.

We collectively look forward to engagement and work in the coming years to develop policy to facilitate the next phases of the energy transition as we move closer to the existing 80% emissions reduction target by 2030. Up to this point, there has not been a meaningful opportunity for a fundamental policy discussion of 2040 and beyond, and the best path forward is not to accelerate it in the waning days of this legislative session where it will not get the thoughtful attention it deserves. We need time and space for discussions about the new era in power demand, cost, reliability, just transition, and all of the other key components of providing increasingly clean and reliable energy to customers 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Accordingly, not granting late bill status for 2040 Clean Energy Plan legislation is in the best interests of all customers, the Colorado economy, the future of the energy transition, and Colorado as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T Jankovsky', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Jankovsky, Chairman  
Garfield County Board of County Commissioners

Cc Garfield County Board of County Commissioners  
Fred Jarman, County Manager  
Heather Beattie, County Attorney