

On behalf of Sustainable Golden, we would like to express enthusiastic support of HB 26 1007, Improve Customer Use Distributed Energy Resources, which the Energy and Environment Committee is scheduled to consider Wednesday, February 25th. A similar bipartisan bill passed in Utah last year (and is also popularizing across Europe). There are many obstacles for a household to get rooftop solar such as being a renter, having an old roof, or lack of financing. Balcony solar (or plug in solar) is a modest, affordable, and accessible energy source for residents, an efficient energy solution in a state that gets 250 days per year of sun. The vast global solar deployment in the last year alone has positive co-benefits for grid stability, public health, egalitarianism, and ending energy poverty. Citizens are experiencing new energy insecurity challenges due to power shut-offs and climate instability, and this low barrier to entry source of renewable power can be a way people have peace of mind. Let households and markets decide where they want to get their energy from and legalize balcony solar in Colorado. Many municipalities across Colorado have already pledged to work towards ambitious renewable energy goals and reduced reliance on fossil fuel energy as our demands on energy continue to increase and our weather patterns are creating instability in the energy grid. As long as these portable solar panels meet electrical safety standards for residents (like the National Electric Code (NEC) standards), this is a win-win across the board.