



January 31, 2022

House Energy & Environment Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB22-1013 Microgrids for Community Resilience

Dear Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee:

My name is Ann Sutton, living in Westminster CO. This testimony represents the position of the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) on the bill to support rural community resilience through a grant program to facilitate development of electric microgrids in communities at risk of power outage from severe weather or natural disaster.

We are pleased to present a qualified support for this bill.

The LWVCO is committed to Equity in access to necessary services and facilities for all communities in the state. We see this program as supporting health, safety, and disaster preparedness for communities that may be smaller and more isolated than those near urban centers.

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, "advanced microgrids enable local power generation assets—including traditional generators, renewables, and storage—to keep the local grid running even when the larger grid experiences interruptions or, for remote areas, where there is no connection to the larger grid."

Although the bill includes renewable energy as alternative sources, there are no limitations with respect to the nature of the alternative energy sources. According to the sponsors, specifics of the power sources will be left up to the communities applying for the grants.

The rapid deployment of propane or diesel power generation can be critical to providing essential health care and other emergency services. Alternatively, we encourage using large battery storage for these situations rather than fossil-fueled sources.

We encourage the sponsors to make renewable energy a top priority when discussing the resources for microgrids that might be installed using the funding available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Sutton, Volunteer Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Colorado
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204
Denver, CO 80203