



March 15, 2022

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

Re: HB22-1249 Roadmap for electric grids in the state

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) in Support of the bill to produce a grid resilience and reliability Roadmap for our state.

The Roadmap priorities are clearly aimed at development and deployment of microgrids for the goals of adding resilience and reliability to the electric grid. It will identify critical infrastructure needs for serving our communities including emergency services, health-care services, public works, communication.

The League supports predominant reliance on renewable energy resources and we support action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development.

The Roadmap may include recommendations to the legislature for a proposed statutory definition of "microgrid."

The Fiscal Note of February 23 describes a microgrid as "groups of interconnected electric loads and distributed energy resources with clearly defined electrical boundaries that can be connected to or disconnected from the electric grid. The microgrid functions as a single, controllable entity with respect to the electric grid." The National Renewable Energy Laboratories note that "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. " These descriptions do not place restrictions on the distributed energy resources that can be included in microgrids. We encourage the sponsors to make renewable energy a top priority when evaluating the resources for microgrids that might be installed.

The LWVCO is committed to justice and inclusion for vulnerable groups including residents of disproportionately impacted communities. In the bill, communities at highest risk from power outages or interruptions will be identified and engaged in the decision-making process.

We thank the sponsors for bringing this timely initiative to the legislature and thank the Committee for its careful consideration.

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
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