



April 20, 2022

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

Re: SB22-051 Policies to reduce emissions from the built environment.

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 a bill that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from heating and cooling commercial and residential buildings. LWVCO believes in an interrelated approach to combating climate change including air pollution controls, promoting renewable resources, and protecting public health. The League supports climate goals and policies that ensure a stable climate system.

We support SB22-051 that encourages the replacement of fossil-fuel combustion for heating with heat pumps for space and water heating. Further, heat pumps will benefit and protect building occupants by reducing inside hazardous air pollution from products of combustion.

The tax credit incentive for purchasers of heat pumps takes effect January 2023. Since I am a recent purchaser of an air source heat pump for my residence, I will not benefit from the tax credit for purchase of my system. However, there are many compensating benefits. We had our cold-climate heat pump system installed in November 2022. The transition from gas furnace to heat pump was seamless and we were able to keep our home comfortable during this winter's coldest days. Daily average temperatures were 33° F in January and February. Plus, we had the added satisfaction of reducing fossil methane pollution in our home environment. The hardest part was learning to program a new thermostat!

Of course, our electric use has increased accordingly. At the present time, Xcel Energy is using coal to produce about 30% of their electricity and renewable energy for about 39%. According to CSU Extension service, "the environmental benefits from using heat pumps are expected to grow as the grid uses more clean energy." The League supports predominant reliance on renewable energy resources.

We are pleased to express our strong support for this bill and thank the committee for their careful review and 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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Denver, CO 80203