

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Governor Jared Polis
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

We respectfully ask for you to exercise your ability to veto legislation on House Bill 21-1266, Concerning Efforts to Redress the Effects of Environmental Justice on Disproportionately Impacted Communities.

This bill was changed significantly with a 25-page amendment that was distributed to impacted stakeholders **less than 24 hours prior to the committee hearing, and less than 48 hours before Sine Die**. Without involving all the industries impacted by this legislation- such as, oil and gas, electric utilities, and others- **this language was agreed to by the proponents of a bill that you had previously committed to veto, even expanding requirements and regulations beyond what was included in the original bill in some cases.**

We firmly believe that such expansive, detrimental policy to industries that are the backbone of our economy should be thoroughly vetted by both chambers of the Legislature and allow for adequate input from all stakeholders. We would like the opportunity to have a real seat at the table for these discussions.

The substantial changes made in this legislation will lead to increased electricity costs and loss of jobs- neither are optimal outcomes emerging from a devastating pandemic and will directly financially impact the bottom line of those who this bill was originally intending to help.

Further, the title of this bill is Environmental Justice on Disproportionately Impacted Communities, but the new language added to the bill through this amendment does not apply to only disproportionately impacted communities. The new language applies statewide- the entire state is not defined as a “disproportionately impacted community”- and therefore, as stated in Article V, Section 21 of the Colorado Constitution, this act shall be void.

“No bill, except general appropriation bills, shall be passed containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title; but if any subject shall be embraced in any act which shall not be expressed in the title, such act shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall not be so expressed.”

We are asking you to exercise your authority as Governor to veto this legislation, open a thorough and thoughtful stakeholder process over the interim with all affected parties and encourage the legislators to present **meaningful climate solutions that are collaborative, attainable, and effective.**

For these reasons above, we oppose HB 1266 as amended and respectfully request that you veto this legislation. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

SB 200/ HB 1266 Coalition

Please see included list of impacted organizations and communities signing onto this letter.

CC: Representative Mike Weissman
Representative Dominique Jackson
Senator Faith Winter
Senator Janet Buckner

