



January 26, 2026

Governor Jared Polis
Office of the Governor
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203-1716

RE: Request to reconsider electrification mandate

Dear Governor Polis and State Legislators,

On December 17, 2025, Xcel Energy implemented its second Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), turning off power to 52,000 customers in a five-county area in order to “reduce the risk of a wildfire caused by power lines or other utility infrastructure.” The storm that required the PSPS brought winds surpassing 100 miles per hour, downing power lines, and leaving more than 100,000 people without electricity for days.¹ Only homes equipped with alternative heating sources remained warm and until crews were able to check hundreds of miles of lines and restore power. On behalf of our rural constituents who do not want to face a similar fate, we write to you today to urge you to reconsider your decision to require Colorado homes and businesses to comply with the “clean heat plan.”

Moving forward with the “clean heat plan” targets will require substantial investments by home and business owners to retrofit properties with heat pumps and electric appliances. According to Xcel Energy’s PUC testimony “These costs can be in excess of \$20,000 per home before incentives for a residential customer retrofitting an existing home to all-electric heating. Depending on the scale of the electrification initiatives, total customer personal costs could be additional billions of dollars, even after rebates.”² Coloradans are already burdened by rising utility costs and inflation. They shouldn’t be expected to incur costs to replace their current, functional appliances.

This requirement also directly contradicts Colorado's affordable housing initiatives, such as Proposition 123, HB24-1007, and HB24-1152, and significantly diminishes the prospect of affordable housing for many Coloradans. Combined with expenses from

¹ Engage Dora. (n.d.). Share your feedback with PUC. Engage Dora. <https://engagedora.org/share-your-feedback-with-puc>

² Public Service Company of Colorado. (n.d.). *2024-2028 Clean Heat Plan*. Xcel Energy. https://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xe-responsive/Company/Rates%20&%20Regulations/23A-0392EG_Hearing%20Exhibit%20101_Attachment%20JWI-1.pdf (Accessed December 29, 2025).

recently adopted regulations, such as the 2021 IECC Energy Code, Colorado Model and Solar Ready Code, and the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code, it's no surprise that homelessness is rising and more families rely on government assistance such as the Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) to survive.

The impact to Colorado families goes deeper still. The "clean heat plan" threatens reliable, consistent, affordable electricity for heating, cooking, and sanitation in many rural Colorado homes where natural gas is relied on heating, meal preparation, and sanitation. Many areas in the state are a significant distant from electrical service due to remote locations, challenging terrain, and the high costs of expanding electrical infrastructure.

From an economic perspective, this decision is shortsighted. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, remote work has become both desired and essential for many Americans who seek an improved work-life balance and look for ways to reduce family expenses for daycare, vehicle ownership, and daily commutes. Productivity will greatly diminish during events similar to those in December, as hundreds of homes and businesses are taken off-line for weather related events, natural disasters, exceedingly high demand, and other instances when the grid is unavailable. Remote workers would be rendered less productive, increasing stress due to missed deadlines, and possibly leading to reduced self-sufficiency and increased reliance on government assistance. On a larger scale, this could lead to supply chain disruptions, operational delays for business owners, and threaten public services such as healthcare, transportation, and emergency response.

With increased demand on electrical infrastructure, we have real concerns about the availability of electricity across the state. The US Energy Information Administration reported that of Colorado's 1368.8 trillion Btu consumption in 2023, natural gas (525.4 trillion Btu), coal (204.8 trillion Btu), and gasoline (262.8 Btu) far surpassed the available electrical capacity.³ Until there are true alternatives that will provide adequate supply to today's demand and that of future needs (artificial intelligence (AI) and data centers, increased demand for electrical vehicle infrastructure, and emerging manufacturing technologies), it is imprudent to take away any portion of our current energy portfolio.

Given the above concerns, we present the following recommendations:

1. Postpone the Decision: Delay implementation of this decision until a comprehensive study is conducted to assess the impacts this decision will have on rural communities.
2. Incorporate Local Input: Amend the decision to allow for local input, enabling local governments, to verify whether or not a parcel is able to be served by electricity alone.
3. Allow for a Property Exemption: For properties located too far from electrical infrastructure or where costs would be prohibitive to connect to the grid, we request that the PUC provide for an exemption to this rule so that property owners are allowed to have reliable energy by the source most reasonable for their individual circumstance.

³ U.S. Energy Information Administration. (n.d.). Colorado state profile and energy estimates. <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CO#tabs-1> (Accessed December 29, 2025).

According to the PUC's own website: *The PUC is responsible for ensuring the availability of safe, reliable, adequate and efficient electric, gas, steam and water services to utility customers at rates that are just, reasonable, and not discriminatory.*⁴ We ask that you continue to prioritize public interest by preserving property owners' freedom of choice for a decision that could have detrimental consequences for families and businesses and economic impacts for our state.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cody Davis in black ink.

Cody Davis
AGNC Chairman
Mesa County Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Doug Overton in black ink.

Doug Overton
AGNC Vice Chairman
Rio Blanco County Commissioner

⁴ Colorado Public Utilities Commission. (n.d.). Energy and water. Colorado Public Utilities Commission. <https://puc.colorado.gov/puc-home/energy-and-water>
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