



AGENDA

Federal, State & Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committee

Friday, August 15, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

[Join the Meeting on Microsoft Teams](#)

Listen to audio only by dialing: 720.388.8447 and using meeting ID 58884822#

Council Member Angela Lawson, Chair
Council Member Danielle Jurinsky, Vice Chair
Council Member Stephanie Hancock, Member

Roberto Venegas, Deputy City Manager
Liz Rogers, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

Council Goal: Serve as leaders and partner with other governments and jurisdictions.

	Pages
1. Consent Items	
2. Approval of Minutes	
2.a July 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes	1
Angela Lawson, Council Member	
3. Metro Mayors Caucus - Bringing Denver Area Municipalities Together to Address Complex Issues	7
Heidi Williams, President & CEO - Civic Results; Executive Director - Metro Mayors Caucus	
4. Federal Legislative Update	
5. State Legislative Update	17
5.a PUC Letter of Support	
Liz Rogers, Intergovernmental Relations Manager	

6. **Water Update**
7. **State - Last Minute Bills**
8. **Federal - Last Minute Bills**
9. **Miscellaneous Matters for Consideration**
10. **Confirm Next Meeting**
 - 10.a **September 19, 2025, at 11:00AM - Virtual**
11. **Adjourn**

**aFederal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video In-Person and Virtual Meeting**

July 18, 2025

Members Present: Council Member Lawson - Chair, Council Member Jurinsky - Vice Chair,
Council Member Hancock - Member

Others present: L. Rogers, B. Mendoza Ortega, K. Kitzmann, T. Rees, P. O’Keefe, Mayor
Coffman, C. Grant, J. Wesolowski, A. Wood, C. McClelland, K. Koca, C.
Juil, S. Day, M. Callison, C. Atkinson, A. Dinberg

1. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 20, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.

**3. PRESENTATION ON STATE IMPACTS FROM HR1: ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL
BILL**

Alyssa Dinberg, Director of Federal Funding & Strategic Coordination in the Governor’s Office, gave a presentation on the state-level impacts of the *One Big Beautiful Bill*. She discussed ongoing litigation involving the state, shared updates on federal funding changes tied to the bill—including cuts to SNAP and Medicaid, the extension of the 2017 tax cuts, and the introduction of new business and individual tax deductions. She also noted the bill’s rapid phase-out of tax incentives for renewable energy projects and the rescission of unobligated funds across several federal agencies.

Mayor Coffman added that he and Councilmember Hancock recently attended the opening of a new affordable housing development. They referenced a provision in the *One Big Beautiful Bill* that expands affordable housing tax credits, which could support similar projects in the future.

A. Dinberg responded that her understanding is that it does not expand that, but she will look up that information and get back to them on it.

Mayor Coffman inquired about what they know about grants from the National Institute of Health and things like that that are important to the Anschutz campus.

A. Dinberg answered that they have a whole team tracking that as well, and will update them with that information.

CM Hancock asked about the EV tax credits available until September 30th. She asked if that was personal EV automobiles through dealerships.

A. Dinberg responded that she understands it to be for personal EV with the federal level personal EV tax credits through direct pay.

CM Lawson asked A. Dinberg to expand on the Department of Transportation preliminary injunctions.

A. Dinberg answered that she will gather more information on it and provide that to them. She also mentioned that information will be listed on [justsecurity.com](https://www.justsecurity.com).

Councilmember Lawson noted that the city has a significant number of transportation initiatives in progress, and the injunctions may potentially delay or affect these efforts."

CM Hancock stated she was also wondering how that would impact their infrastructure projects would have in the pipeline right now and on future projects. She noted that she would also be interested in the data and statistics on that, so they can prepare should there be an adverse impact.

A. Dinberg went over FY 26 budget requests could potentially change once the Democrats take a look at them. It includes \$163 billion in cuts, and the major impacts for programs relevant to local governments are public health, housing, environment, and public safety and emergency preparedness. She talked about changes in landscape within discretionary funding, including funding freezes, grant program terminations, changes to terms & conditions, opportunities released, and addressed the backlog of awards not contracted. She emphasized that a key area to watch is the changes to terms and conditions. For grants awarded prior to the new administration but not yet finalized through contracting, agencies are now seeing some modifications. She recommended that staff pay close attention to these changes.

Mayor Coffman asked A. Dinberg to address the shortfall this creates in the state budget.

A. Dinberg answered that the state is currently trying to figure that out, because since the budget is not finalized, they do not know the exact numbers and will not have them until closer to the end of August.

Mayor Coffman inquired if the Governor is talking about a special session.

A. Dinberg replied that there are conversations about a special session.

CM Hancock asked if these changes are from the administrative perspective, as in the One Big Beautiful Bill because it seems like some of the changes are to administrative overhead and not to benefits directly.

A. Dinberg responded that most of it is around the administrative allowability of the grants. She added that she would be happy to get more information for them.

Alyssa Dinberg discussed recent shifts in the landscape of formula-based federal funding, including temporary payment pauses, current funding levels as outlined, and a growing preference to increase formula funding while reducing discretionary funding. She noted a general return to more fundamental approaches. While much of this remains speculative and unofficial, she emphasized that these insights reflect the trends they are currently hearing and observing. She then talked about some mitigation strategies and communication tactics that she gives to all of their local governments and went over some additional resources. She also shared some federal funding announcements, including confirmed grants USDA Revolving Fund Program and Water Technical Assistance (Water TA).

Mayor Coffman asked if there was any research funding that could go to CU Anschutz Medical Campus. He also asked what the status was for low income housing tax credits in terms of local government being able to expand affordable housing.

A. Dinberg stated that she wrote those down and will make sure to look into those.

CM Hancock reiterated that she is interested in the funding for transportation infrastructure and grants available for water infrastructure for things like wastewater and sewage.

A. Dinberg responded that they did see a large freeze on WaterSmart, which is funding for wastewater, the water system, clean drinking water, and others. However, they are starting to hear that they could potentially be coming back.

Councilmember Lawson emphasized the importance of closely monitoring the injunction and its potential impacts. She noted that ongoing issues related to the injunction could stall progress or require local government to reconsider certain plans. Additionally, she expressed interest in understanding the changes to terms and conditions and their implications.

A. Dinberg suggested making sure their staff attends the bimonthly local government calls and to sign up for the DOLA newsletters. She added that her office also funds a regional grant navigator they can reach out to.

4. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

No update.

Committee Discussion:

None.

Outcome:

Information only.

Follow-Up Action:

No follow-up needed.

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

P. O’Keefe gave an update on state legislation. She said they expect continued discussions around the special session, and there are rumors that it could be the third or fourth week of August, when they could potentially discuss SNAP funding and AI legislation. She stated that there had been discussion about decoupling the tax on tips. She explained that the federal government removed the tax on tips in the Big Beautiful Bill, and the question now is whether the state will follow suit. There appears to be some disagreement among state leadership about whether this issue should be addressed in a Special Session." She added that Medicaid funding is also a big issue, but it does not start until a year or two down the line, so they may be able to wait to address that in the next regular session.

T. Rees voiced that they will be going to the interim committee meetings, and TLRC starts next month. She said the Water Committee and Ag Committee have met once.

Committee Discussion:

CM Jurinsky asked P. O’Keefe to keep her posted on whether they are going to call a Special Session and if they are going to include the no tax on tips. She shared that she would like to know if they allow speakers to sign up for that. She asked what the state did with no tax on overtime.

P. O’Keefe answered that they addressed that in an amendment late in the session on Representative Garcia’s bill. She believed that the state decoupled it so Colorado can continue to tax overtime, but she said she would double-check that.

Mayor Coffman asked if legislation had come up with any solutions regarding the cities’ raising the minimum wage.

P. O’Keefe responded that there was legislation brought by the Restaurant Association that was very watered down at the legislature, and Denver opposed it. She stated that it was local governments that have a higher minimum wage than the state minimum wage, and it would allow those local governments to determine the tipping and the tax credit for that. She explained that from the Restaurant Association’s perspective, it did not address some of their concerns.

CM Jurinsky added that they pretty much killed it.

Mayor Coffman asked if they knew how it was introduced initially.

CM Jurinsky explained that the bill would allow cities that had a higher minimum wage than the state's minimum wage to determine what the tip credit would be. She stated that since businesses in Denver have a higher minimum wage than the state, they could have offered those restaurant owners to claim a higher amount for the FICA tip credit, which is a huge tax credit for employers that have tipped employees. So, they were seeking to offer this tax credit as a higher tax credit back to the employers of tipped employees, but it was gutted.

Mayor Coffman asked if they knew anything about the interim mental health committee, and Representative Jackson, being very interested in the issue of expanding the number of inpatient mental health beds.

T. Rees said she would look into that and confirm.

Councilmember Lawson requested that information on the interim committees be incorporated into the monthly updates going forward.

T. Rees noted that the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders and Criminal Justice meets on the 25th, and Representative Jackson is the chair of that committee. She said it is a light schedule due to the cancellation of so many of the interim committees due to budget constraints.

P. O'Keefe added that they will give them a copy of all the bills that are voting out of the committees.

Outcome:
Information only.

Follow-Up Action:
No follow-up needed.

6. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:
No update.

Committee Discussion:
CM Hancock asked if the two water grants that were brought up in previously will impact the city directly, or it is something they will try to go for.

K. Kitzmann responded that they have applied for previous WaterSmart grants and received \$5 million in WaterSmart grants for the Prairie Water project extension, and they are watching for future WaterSmart grant applications and possibilities. She noted that right now they are all on hold.

CM Hancock asked why they are on hold.

K. Kitzmann answered because of budgeting, federal reconciliation, and federal appropriations.

Outcome:

Information only.

Follow-Up Action:

No follow-up needed.

7. STATE – LAST-MINUTE BILLS

8. FEDERAL – LAST-MINUTE BILLS

9. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

L. Rogers gave an update on their congressional-directed spending request they worked on and put in. She said they have been highly successful, specifically in the THUD Bill in the House, and currently have appropriation funding listed for the fire apparatus ladder truck, flashover simulator for Fire, and three transportation projects they put in for FY25, and all of them have received funding in the House. She stated that they are still waiting on the sewage/wastewater project for water and the public safety drones that were put in through our Senate Delegation, so they have to wait for Senate Appropriations to come out to see if they got funding for those.

10. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

August 15, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. - Virtual

11. ADJOURN

Approved:

Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

Date



Civic Results

A Brief Overview

ABOUT US



Heidi K. Williams
President & CEO

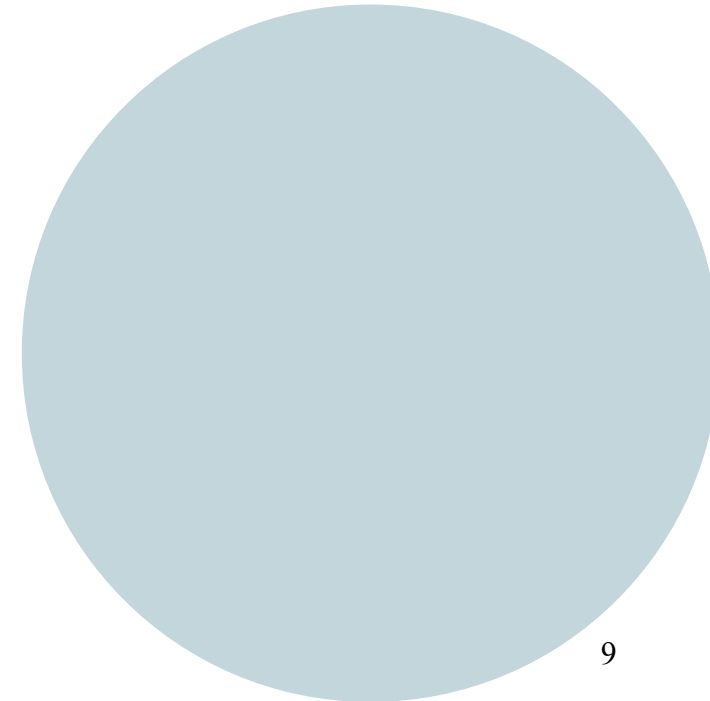
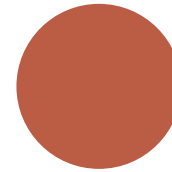


Maggie Graves
Program Assistant

ABOUT US

Civic Results

- Metro Mayors Caucus
- Mayors Leadership Academy
- Future Housing Coalition
- Bridging the Gap



PROGRAMS



Metro Mayors Caucus

- Founded 1993 to collaborate on regional issues
- 38 Metro Area Mayors
- 7 Denver Metro Area Counties
- Transportation/Transit
- Housing/Homelessness/Hunger
- Sustainability/Resiliency
- Legislation and Other Top issues



Municipal Leadership Academy

- ❖ Good Governance
- ❖ Water, Climate & Energy
- ❖ Communications
- ❖ Economic Development
- ❖ Development & Land Use
- ❖ Colorado Government
- ❖ Public Safety
- ❖ Projects



Future Housing Coalition

Creation of a toolkit to move forward development of middle-housing
 First Workshop – October 25th
 Over 40 leaders Came Together

4 Work Groups were formed

- ❖ Community Engagement
- ❖ Local Government Policy & Land Use
- ❖ Private Sector Best Practices
- ❖ Financing Tools & Options



2025 Focus



Regionalism

Working Together for a Better Region

History

Lacking a non-competitive forum for dialogue, MMC was started

High Level

Priorities Since 1993

- Transportation Funding & Mobility Infrastructure Build-out
- Affordable/Workforce Housing
- Homelessness and Hunger
- Smart/Sustainable Growth
- Energy Efficiency & Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Health & Wellness
- Legislative Relations



Housing Initiatives

- Down Payment Assistance
- Landlord Vouchers
- Focus on Homelessness and Hunger – beginning in 2013

Transportation Initiatives

- FasTracks Sales Tax Initiative and Build Out (Almost)
- Statewide initiatives to increase funding for transportation/transit
- RTD and Public Transit

Sustainability & Resiliency

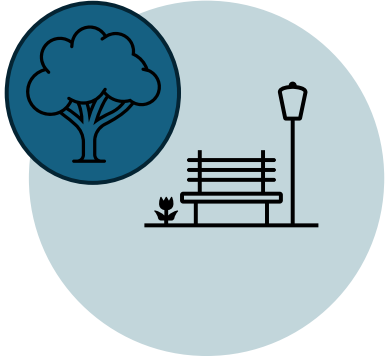
- Regional Collaboration for water conservation
- Policies that encourage energy conservation & efficiency

Health & Wellness

- Early on, the Civic Results & the MMC were focused on health & wellness, youth violence prevention, and regional initiatives.

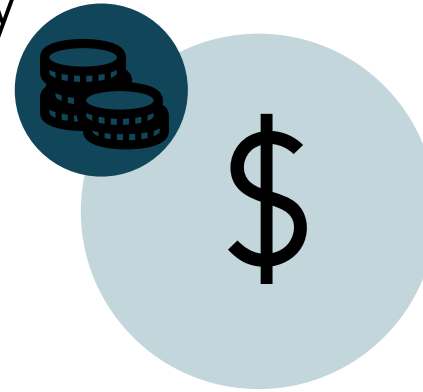


Current Policy Priorities



Local Control & Home Rule Authority

- Oppose Preemption of Local Authority
- Support Tools for Local Objectives
- Regional Cooperation
- Oppose Unfunded Mandates



Colorado's Fiscal Health

- Seek Voter Approval for Enhanced Fiscal Flexibility
- Preserve Taxation and Fee Authority of Home Rule Municipalities
- Sustainability of Economy – eliminate and reduce barriers for businesses in Colorado



Housing

- Strengthen Local Government Authority (Zoning, Financial, Community)
- Promote Condominium Construction for Affordable Homeownership & Housing Diversity
- Support the Creation and Expansion of Housing Tax Credits
- Support Innovation to Increase Middle Housing

Current Policy Priorities

Sustainability



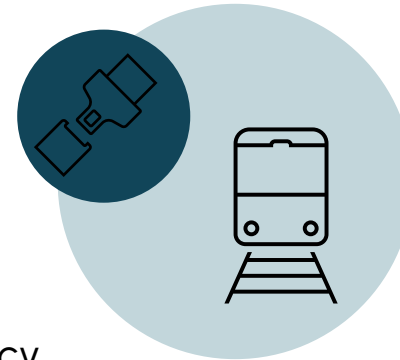
- Air Quality
- Enhance the Electrical Grid
- Water Conservation & Efficiency
- Planning & Coordination for Fire & Flood Resiliency
- Oppose Preemption of Local Utility Control

Public Safety



- Strengthening Public Safety & Local Authority
- Local Flexibility in Criminal Justice
- Support state funding for Co-Responder & Behavioral Health Programs

Transportation



- Prioritize Safety across all Modes of Transportation
- Transportation Funding – Ensuring the existing funding sources are not eliminated and that future projects have a new revenue source
- Completion of FasTracks
- Coordination of Transit Services

VIBE

Vitality in Business Economy

MMC

METRO MAYORS CAUCUS

Powered by  Civic Results

Temporary Task Force:

- Develop and Distribute a Toolkit to Help Municipalities Implement Business-Friendly Initiatives



Civic Results

METRO
Mayors
CAUCUS
Powered by
Civic Results



Heidi Williams
President & CEO
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Heidi@CivicResults.org

Dear Chairman Blank, Commissioner Plant and Commissioner Gilman:

On behalf of the City of Aurora, we urge your support for Xcel Energy's capacity increase request. Reliable, affordable, and sufficient power is essential to Colorado's economic growth, housing development, clean energy transition, and overall quality of life.

Without this capacity increase, Colorado risks:

- **Grid Reliability Risks** – Shortages during peak demand or emergencies.
- **Higher Consumer Costs** – Emergency projects are more expensive and passed on to ratepayers.
- **Economic Development Losses** – Businesses requiring high-capacity, reliable power will choose other states.
- **Housing Slowdowns** – New developments cannot proceed without utility sign-off on capacity.
- **Clean Energy Setbacks** – Electrification and renewable-powered manufacturing depend on expanded load.

Large employers like advanced manufacturers, clean technology companies, and data centers require guaranteed power before committing to a site. If capacity increases are denied, then Colorado risks greater grid instability, slower modernization, possible cost spikes, and stagnated job growth. Employers and manufacturers will locate where they can get reliable power. If we can't add capacity, Colorado risks losing these companies to more competitive states with more reliable power and slowing economic development.

The decision before you is about securing Colorado's future. Expanded capacity will:

- Maintain reliability and affordability for all customers.
- Support economic growth and business attraction.
- Enable housing development tied to job creation.
- Advance Colorado's clean energy leadership.

We strongly urge you to approve Xcel Energy's capacity increase request to 3500 MW to ensure Colorado remains a competitive, and economically vibrant state.

Colorado Public Utilities

Limited Power Capacity

Consequence	Impact
Grid reliability risk	Potential shortages during peak or emergency situations
Increasing regulatory tension	Slower planning and reluctance from Xcel to propose future projects
Higher costs for consumers	Emergency or catch-up builds cost more and risk being passed on
Delay in clean energy transition	Slows integration of renewables and modernization efforts

If capacity increases are denied, then Colorado risks greater grid instability, slower modernization, possible cost spikes, and stagnated job growth. This will result in setbacks in economic development.

Limited Power Capacity Effects on Colorado Economic Development

Limits on Business Growth & Attraction

- Large employers—like data centers, manufacturing, or advanced research labs—need guaranteed, high-capacity, reliable power before they commit to an area.
 - Examples:
 - Philip Morris International needed 25MW-60MW
 - Eli Lilly recently announced two manufacturing projects with different power requirements: 23MW-47MW by 2030 OR 50MW-105MW by 2031.
- Advanced manufacturing processes (semiconductors, aerospace composites, EV batteries) require high reliability, steady voltage, and large continuous loads: usually a minimum of 25 MW.
- Site selectors state that grid capacity and energy reliability are top factors for expanding or relocating companies.
- A lack of available power would impact Colorado’s competitiveness with other states like Texas, Utah, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.
- US Manufacturing Construction spending increased by 155% from 2022-24.
- The Federal Government sparked new investment through CHIPS, IRA and Jobs Act: poured \$1 trillion investment electronics, battery, renewables and semiconductors.

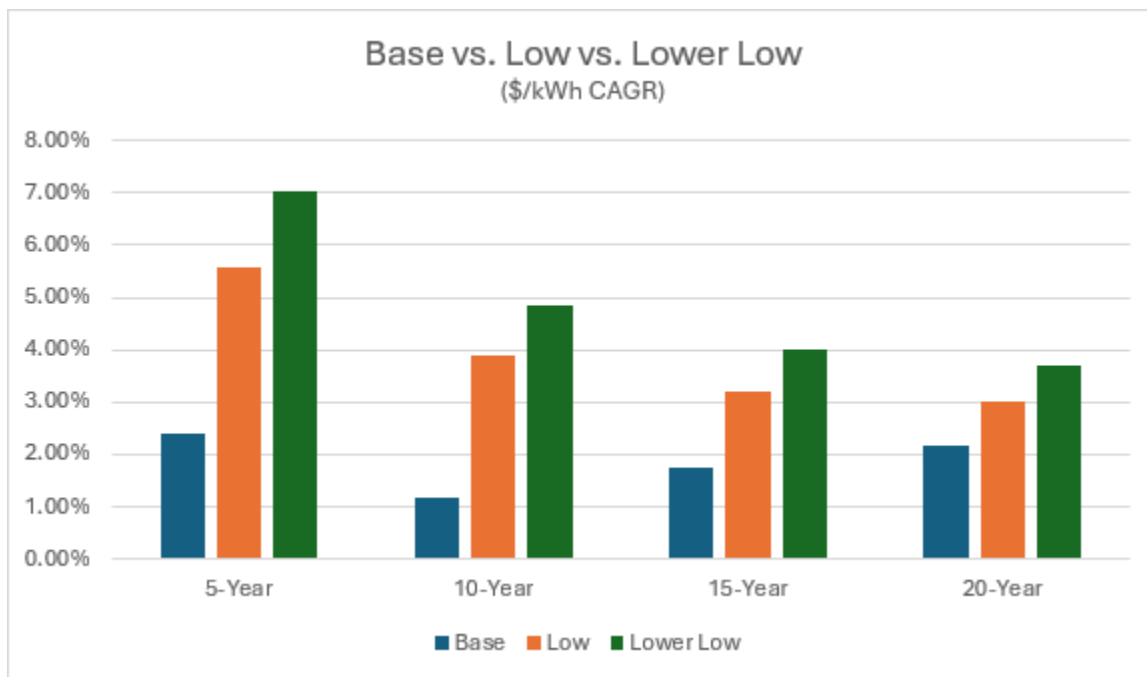
- These companies look for regions and sites that support the core requirements of their business. This includes: utility infrastructure and grid capacity.
- Source: Area Development
<https://www.areadevelopment.com/manufacturing-industrial/q2-2025/how-to-choose-the-right-site-for-your-factory-in-2025s-volatile-landscape.shtml>

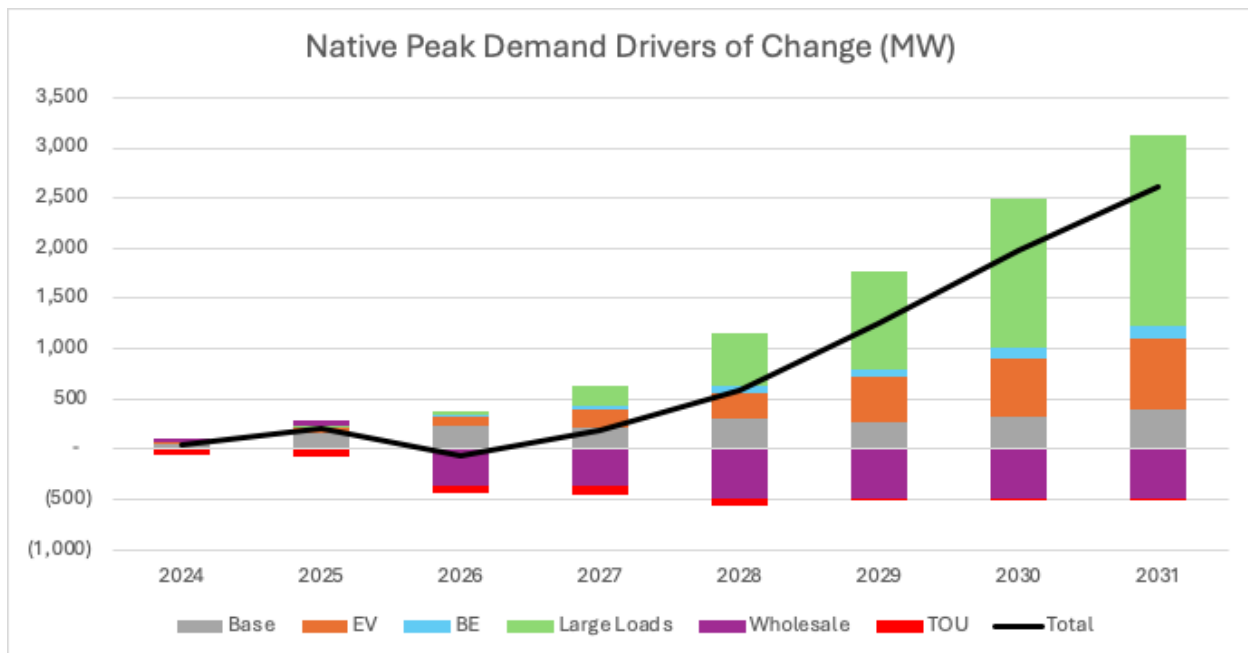
Housing Development and potential Slowdowns

- Ability to build new houses could slow down and put a strain on an already tight housing market.
- New residential developments can't move forward without utility sign-off that the grid can support demand.
- Housing supplies the workforce for manufacturing and renewables; if housing growth slows near industrial hubs, labor shortages will follow.

Stabilized costs

- Large load users balance overall cost of power, resulting in stabilized bills for residential customers.
- Difference in rate for base, low and lower low.





Clean Energy & Electrification Setbacks

- Colorado’s push for increased clean technology businesses, more electric vehicles, electrified buildings, and decarbonized industry requires significant new capacity.
- Renewable-powered manufacturing, like solar panel assembly, might bypass Colorado if the grid can’t handle their load.
 - Example: A solar panel assembly factory needs **7MW** of power to produce 1,200 panels per week. Average solar project needs 2 million panels.
- Colorado has ambitions to attract renewable manufacturing (turbine components, PV modules, battery assembly), but these factories are power-intensive. If they see grid constraints, they will go to other states.
 - Three recent OEDIT prospects had higher power requirements. These groups will NOT be able to locate to Colorado:
 1. Clean technology prospect needed 50MW by 2028. (from OEDIT) Located in Denver.
 2. Sodium-ion battery company needs 90-120 MW in 2030. (from OEDIT). Office located in Broomfield.
 3. Climate Technology company needed 250MW (from OEDIT)

New, Large Load Customers

Colorado is an attractive place for data center development.

- It offers clean power, land, fiber and other intangibles necessary for data center development.
- The state needs certainty of power to allow data centers to invest to attract quantum computing and AI technology.
- The “information highway” will skip Colorado if CPUC limits power to the utility company.

Reputation & Investment Risk

- Colorado does not want a reputation as a “capacity-constrained” state.
- Long-term perception could damage efforts at economic development.

Area	Likely Impact
Business Attraction	Declines in large projects needing heavy electricity loads
Existing Industry	Expansion delays or relocations
Housing Development	Slower approvals & construction
Clean Tech Growth	Setbacks in EV, renewable manufacturing, and electrification
State Reputation	Lower ranking for business climate

Summary:

- **Lost projects = lost jobs & tax base**
- Employers and manufacturers will locate where they can get reliable power. If we can’t add capacity, Colorado risks losing these companies to more competitive states with more reliable power.
- Colorado is falling behind in economic development. Businesses and workers want to be here, but without sufficient, reliable power to drive growth, companies will not locate here, and the workers and businesses will be forced to go elsewhere.
- Colorado is competing against other states that are willing to do what it takes to bring energy generation and infrastructure to bear and support economic growth.
- Without adequate loads and power, we will see opportunities go elsewhere. This will cause long-term ramifications to the Colorado economy.
- Existing companies planning expansions, especially those electrifying operations, could be forced to scale back or delay.
- Impacts: Lost new manufacturing plants, data centers, and clean energy companies. Companies choosing sites for new fabrications or production lines may bypass Colorado if there’s no guaranteed firm power capacity.

Just Transition Solicitation

➤ **Background**

- The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is currently considering Xcel Energy's Just Transition Solicitation (JTS) proposal, which will guide energy generation and infrastructure investment in Colorado through 2032.
- The load forecast is a key component of the JTS: it determines the levels of energy and capacity needs that Xcel Energy will solution for in upcoming generation resource procurements.
- A lower load forecast means less energy and capacity available for customer expansion, new customer interconnection, and economic growth for Colorado.
- In its initial deliberations on the JTS, the Commission made significant cuts to the load forecast (hundreds of megawatts of firm capacity), including removing forecasted customer expansions and new customers unless those customers have signed contracts with Xcel Energy, that meet Commission expectations to be defined further in the future, and are deep into the development cycle.
- The CPUC *has not* finalized its decision on the load forecast; a showing from groups and entities interested in investing in Colorado *now* is imperative.

➤ **Key Points**

- Key points for any letter to the CPUC or other policymakers vary across existing customers, developers, economic development groups, and new large load customers. Suggested points for each are:
 - Existing Customers
 - We are expanding our operations and bring jobs, tax base, and economic development to Colorado.
 - Our plans are associated with recent public announcements and policy priorities [*AS APPLICABLE*].
 - We need power to do it.
 - Without new investment in generation and infrastructure in Colorado, we will need to look elsewhere or curtail our expansion plans.
 - We ask the CPUC to take a forward-looking approach to generation acquisitions and infrastructure development that can provide the power we need to make the investments in Colorado that we want to make.
 - Developers
 - Colorado needs housing and real estate development to meet the needs of its growing economy.
 - Power and infrastructure to provide energy service is an integral part of the equation to make this real estate development a reality.

- Short-circuiting generation procurements and undershooting forecasts will have ripple effects to the housing market, exacerbating a growing affordability challenge in the housing market.
- We ask the CPUC to take a forward-looking approach to generation acquisitions and infrastructure development that can facilitate the development of housing and other real estate development that Colorado needs.
- Economic development groups
 - Colorado is falling behind in economic development. Businesses and workers want to be here, but without sufficient, reliable power to drive growth, they will be forced to go elsewhere.
 - Colorado is attractive to businesses looking to expand, relocate, or start-up.
 - We have the educated workforce that businesses want; but we need signals from energy regulators and policymakers that Colorado is open for business.
 - We are competing against other states that are willing to do what it takes to bring energy generation and infrastructure to bear and support economic growth.
 - Artificially cutting load forecasts will undermine our ability to compete, and we will see opportunities go elsewhere with long-term ramifications to the Colorado economy.
 - Emissions reductions are important to us. We support the development of new clean, energy resources.
 - Reliability is also important to us. We support the development of 24/7 resources to support clean energy development.
- New large load customers
 - Colorado is an attractive place for data center development.
 - It offers clean power, land, fiber and other intangibles necessary for data center development.
 - But we need certainty of power to make the investments we want to make in Colorado.
 - We want to make investments, we want to consume Colorado clean power, and we want to play a role in investing in infrastructure.
 - We can play a key role in continuing the energy transition and making it affordable for *everyone*. And we want to play that role.
 - But to do so, we need the CPUC authorizing procurements that create room in the system. We ask the CPUC to unlock the ability for us to come to Colorado.

➤ **Requested Action**

- Draft letter based on key points above and submit to CPUC as a public comment *and* provide to relevant policymakers.