



May 25, 2021

House Transportation and Local Government
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: SB21-238

Dear Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee:

My name is Kay Palmer Marsh. I am a member of the Legislative Action Committee of the League of Women Voters of Colorado. The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 19 local leagues in several regions of the state. I am here to testify in support of SB21-238, on behalf of our state league's Legislative Action Committee.

We believe that SB21-238 upholds the League principles of energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems. Transportation systems should afford access to housing and jobs and should help improve mobility and quality of life for all residents. We believe balanced transportation systems should include a variety of modes in an appropriate mix for different areas. We believe that public mass transportation should be improved immediately. This enabling legislation is intended to respond to the long-held vision of CDOT and others for a passenger rail system serving Colorado's front range communities.

This bill, when signed by the Governor and voted on by the people in this very large special district will ultimately improve air quality, reduce congestion on our highways, and provide better access between job locations and where people live.

A February 2021 report of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on public transportation describes the most carbon-efficient transit modes on a per passenger basis as those that are rail-based, under electric power.

This bill has definitely been strengthened by amendments from the Senate Committee prioritizing Boulder County to serve the people along the unbuilt Fast Tracks NW B Line, from Westminster to Longmont. The perception of voters in Boulder County is that this bill, after enactment and a yes vote of the people in the large Special District, will result in double taxation for the long-promised and unbuilt B Line into Union Station. Boulder County voters will pay the .8% front range passenger rail sales tax on top of the Fast Track's sales tax of .4%. It is an issue.

In any case, the League of Women Voters of Colorado believes the time has come for Front Range Passenger Rail. The variety of national and state entities supporting this effort now

provide an unparalleled opportunity for this innovative passenger rail system. Thank you for considering this especially important bill and we urge you to vote yes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay Palmer Marsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kay" being the most prominent.

Kay Palmer Marsh
League of Women Voters of Colorado
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204
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