

House Transportation & Local Government

03/30/2021 1:30 PM

Testimony - HB21-1186 Regional Transportation District Operation

Title	First Name	Last Name	Position Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony
Mr.	Stephen	Benchik	For	Self	<p>My name is Stephen Benchik and I am a resident of HDZ in Denver. With the rapid growth that Denver has seen in the past few years requires a rethinking of transportation within the city. With increased population comes increased traffic, and it is becoming more and more apparent that Denver's car-centric design is not sustainable. The state attempted to relieve this congestion in part by establishing RTD in 1972, however it has since been hamstrung by onerous requirements in state law. These strict regulations have crippled RTD and prevented it from becoming an attractive method of transportation, leading to some of the highest fares in the country. If Denver is to fully live up to its potential as a world class city, it needs a world class transportation system. In order for that to happen, RTD needs to be free to innovate and act in the best interest of its' riders. It is for these reasons that I support the passage of</p> <p>Submitted text this bill.</p>

Witness Signup List

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3/22/2021 20:06



March 30, 2021

Dear Members of the House Transportation & Local Government Committee:

Enterprise Community Partners is pleased to share our **support for HB 1186 – Regional Transportation District Operation.**

Enterprise works nationally and here in Colorado to make home and community places of pride, power and belonging for all. We do so through: capital investments, policy and programmatic engagement, and advocacy. The three goals that ground our work are increasing the supply of affordable housing, advancing racial equity, and building resilience and upward mobility.

We support these equity-driven updates to the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) operations that stemmed from the work of RTD's independent Accountability Committee.

Enterprise has long recognized the importance of people's easy access to transit for individual and community economic mobility and encourages policy changes that make equitable housing development near transit more feasible. For more than 10 years, we have hosted a \$19 million regional transit-oriented development fund to encourage development of affordable housing near light rail stations and bus corridors throughout Metro Denver.

HB 1186 is an important step toward more inclusive, transit-oriented growth that better allows for the engagement of diverse communities and businesses. We particularly support changes to expand the types of entities with which RTD can contract to provide goods and services, and to repeal limitations on developments based on reduced parking availability or potential for competition with private businesses near RTD stations.

Enterprise respectfully urges your "yes" vote today on HB 1186.

Thank you,

Kinsey Hasstedt
State & Local Policy Director
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