

House Energy and Environment Committee

PUBLIC STATEMENT FOR HEARING ON HB20-1060

January 27, 2020

My name is Denise King-Stovall, 9971 CR 141, Hesperus, CO and I am submitting this on behalf of myself and Western Colorado. I want to start off by letting the Energy and Environment Committee know how grateful I am to have this opportunity to submit my statement regarding HB20-1060

I was educated as a Naturalist at Penn State University and hold a BS Degree as well as an MBA from California Coast University. Most of my early career in Parks and Recreation was in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In more recent times, I was the Parks and Recreation Director in Mancos, Colorado and have spent 23 years working with Purgatory Resort, Durango, CO, mostly teaching downhill skiing and running a family sheep ranch in Hesperus. I have witnessed the natural decomposing remains of hundreds of wild animals and livestock over the years

Having spent over 30 years studying and working outdoors, I firmly believe that the repose of human remains through a composting method is one of the most positive, healthy and natural processes we could institute. As the population grows, our natural resources are heavily taxed. The composting of human remains supplies the soil with natural minerals instead of chemicals and more waste material from embalming and casket materials, The composting method as outlined in recent legislation approved in the Washington State (Bill # 5001 4/9/19) is most advantageous for the state nicknamed "the mother of rivers" . Colorado is the home of the headwaters of three major river systems and supplies water to seventeen other states and the country of Mexico. The increase in population equals an increase in human remains and this means additional chemical percolation into our soil and eventually into our water sheds. Cremation also pollutes the air and eventually the soil as well as using an enormous amount of energy to burn at extreme high temperatures, emitting the gas Benzene along with other carcinogens. A healthy earth should be a goal for all of us. So let Colorado be one of the pioneering states on this issue.