Chairman Mitsch-Bush and committee members

I apologize that I am not there to testify in person on this very important bill for Progressive 15. We are an advocacy group looking at the interests of a 15 county area in Northeast Colorado. From the more populous areas of I-25 corridor from Douglas county north to the Wyoming border, along the I-76 corridor to Nebraska and along the I-70 corridor to Kansas and all points in between we are the energy, breadbasket, route to tourism and DIA from neighboring states and the route to brings goods and services into the state. We believe that there are no more magic pots of money that are sustainable and will address a statewide solution to meet the backlog of projects, let alone move our transportation system towards the future.

Safety is a prime concern in our region. From the congestion on I25 north to the far reaches of our region where we lack shoulders and have limited hours for snow plowing because of lack of money. Can everyone be more efficient, of course, but that is not the reason we lack funding.

CDOT is a business within our state government who has not had an increase in revenues in over 20+ years while cost of services continue to rise. In the private sector we would never do that without adjusting revenues up while continuing to control expenses. We feel CDOT probably can't get any more blood from the turnip or sugar from the sugar beet in our region.

One of the tenants of Tabor was the right of the people to vote on tax increases. We are asking you as committee members to vote yes to bring this out of committee and support letting the citizens vote.

There will always be groups who want more or less, want something different, have short term fixes, but a large group of dedicated organizations and individuals from across the state have worked on this for over 10 years and we don't bring this to you lightly.

We ask that you vote yes on HB17-1242

Thank you for your consideration

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