

SNOWMASS ASPEN MOUNTAIN ASPEN HIGHLANDS BUTTERMILK



April 15, 2013

To the Members of the Colorado House Agriculture Committee:

I'm writing from Aspen Skiing Company in strong support of HB1293, establishing a position on climate change matters in the Governor's office. Aspen Skiing Company employs 3,400 people in winter and along with the rest of the Colorado ski industry, we're responsible for 12 million skier visits, 38,000 jobs, \$1.2 billion in labor income and \$2.2 billion in value added to the state economy.

Unfortunately, a new study by Protect Our Winters and the Natural Resources Defense Council shows that Colorado alone loses 1.8 million skier visits and a corresponding \$154 million in revenue in a low, vs. a high, snow year. The effects of climate change in Colorado include a loss of snowfall, and more precipitation as rain. We can't afford to put this industry at risk: snow is literally money and jobs that falls from the sky.

At the same time, we see solving climate change as a positive, as an opportunity to protect the snowsports industry—including snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing—that makes Colorado a recreation leader, and also to grow the state's economy. Aspen Skiing Company alone has invested close to \$8 million in clean energy projects that use local labor and support small town economies.

Prioritizing climate solutions like those being implemented widely in businesses throughout Colorado—clean energy, energy efficiency, and efficient transportation—makes sense. And a key way to do that is to create a position in the Governor's office.

We like the direction Colorado's headed—as a leader in jobs and recreation, in clean tech, and in education through institutions teaching climate solutions like CSU, CU, and DU. Let's keep the momentum going by recreating the climate office in Colorado.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Auden Schendler".

Auden Schendler  
Vice President, Sustainability