

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



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**Public Comment of Carly West on behalf of the  
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry  
Re: Working Session on Greenhouse Gas Regulatory  
Authority in Colorado  
October 17, 2013**

Chairman Lowy, Commission Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Carly West and I am a Governmental Affairs Representative with the Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry, officed here in Denver. I am here today to comment on behalf of CACI and its members. CACI is a private, non-profit trade association created in 1965. CACI members employ over 200,000 Coloradans in the private-sector workforce and include 40 Local Chambers of Commerce, which in turn represent over 20,000 Colorado member companies with over 800,000 employees. Thus, CACI is truly the voice of industry in Colorado.

CACI's members are keenly interested and potentially greatly affected by the prospect of GHG regulation at the state level here in Colorado. We are mindful that the Obama administration's Climate Action Plan announced earlier this year is largely premised on moving forward with GHG regulation under existing Clean Air Act statutory authority, primarily Section 111(d) of the Act. This proposed action is itself controversial, and likely will be the subject of future legal challenges, much the same as the many challenges raised to EPA's GHG Tailpipe Rule, and other related GHG rules. Indeed, as you also know, the United States

Supreme Court *just this week* granted the petitions of multiple Industry petitioners to review whether EPA has authority to regulate GHGs from stationary sources, and not just mobile sources which were the subject of the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, on which the Tailpipe rule is based. While there are many arguments and objections to be raised in those consolidated cases and other pending litigation, one of the more significant issues for CACI and its members is the lack of uniformity and "patchwork" of GHG Rules that may arise in the absence of uniform federal regulation of GHGs. That is the primary focus of my brief comments for you today.

Let me assure you that I am not here today to challenge the prevailing scientific view concerning the causes of climate change. CACI's members reflect a broad range of opinion on those and other related topics, and their individual voices will be heard at appropriate times on such issues. What I am here to comment on is the need for careful analysis of perceived and documented problems, and to urge this Commission to only take action to regulate when that is well-supported by hard data on GHG emissions *and* on the costs of controlling them, and even then only in ways that are well-tailored to effectively address the problems defined by those data. In that regard, CACI supports the important work of the Commission to understand "EPA's current and proposed regulations for GHG emissions and how sources in Colorado may be affected," and "EPA's and

Colorado's current GHG emission inventories," two items on your agenda for today's working session.

We are all fortunate to live and work in the great State of Colorado, and CACI's members certainly enjoy the ability to attract and retain skilled employees to this beautiful place we call home. Protecting Colorado's air quality is an important part of that equation, but we are also concerned about well-intended but poorly supported proposals for regulation that could burden Colorado businesses with expensive mandates that may not be effective. In this regard, we ask for your exacting and impartial attention to detail in approaching the subject of GHG regulation by this Commission. The citizens and businesses of Colorado expect the best in many things, and making a solid case for well-tailored and cost-effective regulations that do not put Colorado at a significant competitive disadvantage is properly included among those high expectations.

On behalf of CACI's members, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important subject.