



**Board of County Commissioners**

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August 14, 2018

Peter Butler, Ph.D., Chairman, Air Quality Control Commission  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, EDO-AQCC-A5  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

*Sent via email: [cdphe.commentsapcd@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.commentsapcd@state.co.us), [cdphe.agcc-comments@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.agcc-comments@state.co.us)*

Dear Dr. Butler and Commission Members:

The Eagle County Board of Commissioners applauds Governor Hickenlooper's leadership and foresight in signing Executive Order B 2018 006, Maintaining Progress on Clean Vehicles. The Order directs the Air Quality Control Commission to develop a rule to establish a Colorado Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) program.

In addition, we implore the Commission to amend the rulemaking process in order to consider and adopt zero emission vehicle provisions that would expand access to electric vehicles across the state. The Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV) program, adopted by California and other states, would require automakers to have approximately 10 percent of new sales be electric vehicles by 2025.

The Eagle County community is worried about the warming climate. Our rural, mountain community is home to the year-round resorts of Vail and Beaver Creek. Our community's brand includes outdoor recreation, a breath-taking environment, and a healthy lifestyle. We cannot overstate that our ecosystems, economy, and way of life are at risk due to climate change. Regionally, there are 23 fewer days of freezing temperatures (below 32 degrees) than in the 1970s.<sup>i</sup> Peak runoff of the Colorado River occurred in May this year— its earliest in 50 years and part of a 21st century trend, according to the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Eagle County experienced its first major wildland fire this summer, which came within feet of the communities of El Jebel and Basalt, accumulated a \$19 million suppression price tag, and resulted in weeks of poor air quality throughout Eagle County.

Eagle County Government has significantly invested in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to "do our part." We recently created a Sustainable Communities department. We sponsor a county-wide climate action plan in partnership with local towns and stakeholders with GHG emission reduction targets. We own solar farms and use renewable energy sources whenever possible.



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As the world continues to follow a high greenhouse gas emissions trajectory,<sup>ii</sup> it will take significant state and federal policy changes to have a meaningful impact. Colorado is in a position to do all it can to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lead by example. We understand the Commission is under a tight timeframe, and are fully committed to supporting the AQCC to get the work done by the deadline in the executive order. Please don't let this deadline stand in the way of needed progress on this issue. Adopting a ZEV program to complement the LEV program will improve public health, save consumers money, and help to put us on the path to reducing the devastating consequences of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner

Jill H. Ryan

Commissioner

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<sup>i</sup>Aspen Global Change Institute, "Climate Change & Aspen: An Update on Impacts to Guide Resiliency Planning & Stakeholder Engagement." Available online: [https://www.agci.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/lib/publications/GI\\_canary\\_ClimateChangeAspen2014.pdf?\\_sm\\_au\\_=iVVb5bQ7FVFR1Pqq](https://www.agci.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/lib/publications/GI_canary_ClimateChangeAspen2014.pdf?_sm_au_=iVVb5bQ7FVFR1Pqq)

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.