



Governor John Hickenlooper
State Capitol, Denver CO 80202

May 12, 2017

Dear Governor Hickenlooper,

We are writing to let you know of our deep disappointment at the legislature's failure to secure funding for the Colorado Energy Office, and in hopes you will be able to redress this situation.

As the leaders of Colorado's solar industry, we represent a vibrant and growing part of our state's economy, with more than 450 companies and more than 6,000 jobs. Nationally, one in every 50 jobs created in the U.S. last year was in solar energy and solar installer is among the fastest-growing job in the nation. As professionals in a growing part of Colorado's energy economy, we feel strongly that our state needs a strong energy office.

The Colorado Energy Office fills a critical role in the state's energy ecosystem. We have seen the office's committed professionals play an important role at the Public Utilities Commission, in discussions about policy directions, and in program leadership. The office is important as a convenor and serves as a mediator of different points of view. Additionally, its programs serve as important incubators to encourage nascent technologies and new business models.

Beyond the day-to-day importance of the Colorado Energy Office's work, we believe the message sent to the rest of the nation through the legislature's inaction is detrimental to our state as a whole. Colorado has long been seen as an energy leader – both in clean energy sectors like ours and for those who favor an “all-of-the-above” perspective. A strong state energy office serves as a conduit for streams of federal funding and as a central hub for policy debates. If we let the office dwindle to a skeleton staff, we are sending a message to the nation that Colorado is no longer open for energy business.

We know that you are considering options and we want you to know that the solar industry stands ready to support you in efforts to find secure funding for the Colorado Energy Office. We hope to work with you to help find a long-term permanent funding source for this important work. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance.

Thank you for your help and support,



Taylor Henderson

President, Board of Directors
Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association

Director of Project Development and Acquisitions
Soltage



Tom Hunt

Senior Vice President, Corporate Development/Chief of Staff
Clean Energy Collective

Rebecca Cantwell

Rebecca Cantwell

Executive Director
Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association

Sara Birmingham

Sara Birmingham

Senior Director, State Affairs
Solar Energy Industries Association

Roger Freeman

Attorney, Member of Board of Directors
Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association