



March 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado State Legislature,

Together Colorado is a nonpartisan, multi-racial and multi-faith statewide organization working to place human dignity at the center of public life in Colorado. We are writing to express our **support for SB24-166**. We also support SB24-165 and HB24-1330.

Whether we live in the mountains, foothills or on the plains, whether we are Black, white or brown, we all need clean air to breathe and an environment free from pollution. Unfortunately, oil and gas corporations within our state have put profit over the health of Coloradans and the longevity of our planet. This has caused significant harm to Black and brown communities, and workers, who are trapped in nets of pollution, making it dangerous for our children to even venture outside on high ozone days.

In recent years, instead of being known for our beautiful views, our vibrant wildlife, and our gorgeous mountains, Colorado has been known for our dirty brown skies and track record of failing to meet the most basic of environmental standards. Our very own Colorado Department of Health and the Environment recognizes the impacts of this pollution and how it harms our people. Short-term exposure to unhealthy levels of ozone pollution can cause symptoms, such as: Coughing; eye, nose, and throat irritation; chest pains; breathing difficulty; and more frequent asthma attacks. Long-term exposure is linked to a variety of poor health outcomes, including lung and cardiovascular disease and premature death.¹

As moral leaders in our community, committed to a human dignity platform, we call on the legislature to prioritize changes in how we manage ozone in our state. **Protecting the lives and well-being of our citizens should be our number one priority. SB24-166, and its partner bills, are working to do just that.**

We have an ethical responsibility to hold industry accountable for violating air quality standards. While Suncor may complain about a \$12 million dollar fine, they paid back shareholders \$1.1 billion in the fourth quarter alone.² Companies simply calculate these fines into operating costs and keep polluting. That does nothing to prevent harm to our communities. **By Supporting SB24-166, you protect the health and wellness of all Coloradans.** By supporting this bill, you make a clear directive that clean air matters.

In many of our traditions, the word *ruach* means breath. The breath of G-d, the wind of G-d. That breath is what energizes our lives and gives us life. That breath is in our lungs and engages our very being. We need clean air to live. It was fundamental at creation and is fundamental to our well-being today.

Representing these traditions, we believe that all of Colorado's residents, regardless of how they worship, what they look like, or what's in their wallet, deserve a clean and healthy environment. We must legislate for all Coloradans. As clergy and faith leaders in your communities, we urge you to **vote YES on SB24-166**.

Thank you for your public service and leadership.

Signed by 58 clergy and faith leaders, listed in order by State Senate District on the following pages.

¹ <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/ozone-pollution-and-your-health#OzoneHealthEffects>, 2023

² <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/suncor-energy-reports-fourth-quarter-223000512.html>

Deacon Rosalie Fesser
Lutheran
Brush
State Senate District 1

Rev. Alena Lamirato
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Castle Rock
State Senate District 2

Rev. Lola West
United Methodist
Avondale/Olney Springs/Pueblo
State Senate District 3

Rev. Dr. Neema Caughran
Center for Inner Peace
Pueblo
State Senate District 3

Ms. Barbara Ripperger
King of Kings Lutheran Church
Pueblo
State Senate District 3

Mr. Jimmy Duffner
First Presbyterian Church Pueblo Colorado
Pueblo
State Senate District 3

Rev. Melinda Veatch
United Church of the San Juans
Ridgway
State Senate District 6

Mr. David Edwards
Congregation Ohr Shalom
Grand Junction
State Senate District 7

Ms. Paula Stecker
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Colorado Springs
State Senate District 9

Dr. Elizabeth Lindquist
First Lutheran Church
Colorado Springs
State Senate District 10

Mrs. Susan A Bolduc
Co-Chair, Colorado Springs Faith Table
Colorado Springs
State Senate District 11

Father Robert Gallagher
Catholic priest
Colorado Springs
State Senate District 11

Ms. Christine Cerbana
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Fort Collins
State Senate District 14

Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson
First Congregational church Loveland UCC
Loveland
State Senate District 15

Rev. Erin Gilmore
United Church of Christ
Loveland
State Senate District 15

Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris
United Methodist Church
Loveland
State Senate District 15

Rev. Judith Wrought
Presbyterian
Loveland
State Senate District 15

Dr. Vernon Rempel
Mennonite
Littleton
State Senate District 16

Rev. Stephanie Kidwell
Mt View United Methodist
Boulder
State Senate District 17

Mr. Pedro Silva
United Church of Christ
Lafayette
State Senate District 17

Rev. Barbara Molfese
Unitarian Universalist
Lafayette
State Senate District 17

Ms. Natalie Parker
Longmont UU Presence, Boulder Valley UU
Fellowship
Longmont
State Senate District 17

Rev. Kelly Dignan
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
Boulder
State Senate District 18

Rev. Stephanie Lord
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Louisville
State Senate District 18

Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry
Unitarian Universalist
Louisville
State Senate District 18

Deacon Linda Bobbitt
St Andrew Lutheran Church
Arvada
State Senate District 19

Rev. Janel Apps Ramsey
Brew Theology
Westminster
State Senate District 19

Mr. Doug Nelson
The Refuge
Broomfield
State Senate District 25

Bishop Kae Madden
Ecumenical Catholic Communion, Rocky
Mountain Region
Northglenn
State Senate District 25

Rev. Don Bird
Broomfield United Methodist Church
Broomfield
State Senate District 25

Rev. Jane Reina
Church of the Holy Family, ECC
Denver
State Senate District 26

Rev. Jessica Abell
American Baptist Churches, USA
Englewood
State Senate District 26

Rabbi Eliot Baskin
Shalom Park
Greenwood Village
State Senate District 26

Rev. Isaac Saka
Green Valley Ranch Presbyterian Church
Aurora
State Senate District 28

Dr. Eric D Nelson
Absolute Word Church
Denver
State Senate District 28

Rev. Lemuel Velasco
Comunidad de Adoración Presbiteriana Divino
Salvador
Aurora
State Senate District 28

Mr. Mark Meeks
Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church
Denver
State Senate District 31

Ms. Lorraine Gill
First Unitarian Society Denver
Denver
State Senate District 31

Rev. Bonita Bock
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Denver
State Senate District 31

Msgr. Robert Amundsen
Catholic Archdiocese of Denver
Denver
State Senate District 31

Fr. Michael Nicosia
St. Paul Catholic Community of
Faith/Ecumenical Catholic Communion
Denver
State Senate District 31

Pastor Caitlin Trussell
Augustana Lutheran Church
Denver
State Senate District 32

Rabbi Bernard Gerson
Congregation Rodef Shalom
Denver
State Senate District 32

Rev. Mollie Landers Hatt
United Church of Christ
Lakewood
State Senate District 32

Ms. Susan Brown
Park Hill UMC
Denver
State Senate District 33

Mrs. Carol High
Park Hill United Methodist
Denver
State Senate District 33

Ms. Debra Meyer
Christian
Denver
State Senate District 33

Lea Singh
Park Hill United Methodist Church
Denver
State Senate District 33

Rev. Genevieve Rohret-Navin
Park Hill United Methodist Church
Denver
State Senate District 33

Mr. Steve Holz-Russell
Home Missioner, Park Hill United Methodist
Church
Denver
State Senate District 33

Br. Daniel Klawitter
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Denver
State Senate District 33

Sister Margaret E Fuhr
Sisters of St. Francis
Denver
State Senate District 34

Ms. Sally Wolfe
Loyola Catholic Church
Denver
State Senate District 33

Dr. Kimberly Hockman
FUMC-Prairie Campus
Colorado Springs
State Senate District 35

Rev. Jeff Neuman-Lee
Church of the Brethren
Denver
State Senate District 33

Pastor Charles Battle
The New Pearl Church
Denver
State Senate District 33

Pastor Cheryl Williamson
Baptist
Denver
State Senate District 33

Rev. Paul Kottke
United Methodist
Denver
State Senate District 33

Mrs. Sharon Battle
The New Pearl Church
Sheridan
State Senate District 33

Rev. Dean Woodward
United methodist
Denver
State Senate District 34

Fr. Stephen Adams
Catholic Priest (retired)
Denver
State Senate District 34