

Supporting Denver’s Bid To Be Selected As A Gas Planning Pilot Community As Outlined In HB24-1370.

WHEREAS, The Colorado State Legislature in the 2024 Legislative Session passed HB24-1370, a bill requiring the Colorado Energy Office to solicit interest from local governments that are served by a dual-fuel utility in becoming a gas planning pilot community and exploring opportunities for neighborhood-scale alternatives projects that decommission a portion of the gas distribution system or avoid new gas infrastructure;

WHEREAS, The City of Denver has committed itself to climate action and reduction goals of greenhouse gas emissions, citywide, of 40% reduction by 2025; 65% reduction by 2030, and 100% reduction by 2040;

WHEREAS, The City of Denver has also committed itself to serving disproportionately impacted communities affected by climate change impacts, including people of color, indigenous persons, low-income communities, people living with chronic health conditions, babies, children, and older adults;

WHEREAS, The City of Denver has an established Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency which is uniquely equipped among Colorado jurisdictions to spearhead neighborhood-scale alternatives projects as outlined in HB24-1370;

WHEREAS, The City of Denver is committed to pursuing thermal energy network or geothermal energy projects as part of the City’s evaluation of potential neighborhood-scale alternatives projects;

WHEREAS, The existing steam loop and chilled water systems in the City boost the catalytic potential and cost feasibility of converting existing infrastructure to a sustainable thermal energy network system;

WHEREAS, The City recognizes that renters and low-income residents require planned and holistic public interventions in the utility space to prevent being left behind in the energy transition;

WHEREAS, A 2023 study by the American Chemical Society across 87 homes in California and Colorado found that natural gas and propane combustion raised indoor benzene concentrations above well-established health benchmarks at levels 10-25 times higher than electric alternatives;

WHEREAS, The City of Denver recognizes that outdoor air pollution from fossil fuel use is responsible for the premature deaths of over 8 million people globally, over 100,000 people in the United States, and more than 800 people in Colorado each year.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER: Section 1. The City Council of Denver stands unified in support of Denver’s participation in becoming a gas planning pilot community under the terms of HB24-1370. Section 2. The City Council of Denver believes the State of Colorado should continue to partner with and grow its support for local communities attempting to disengage from fossil fuel uses. Section 3. The City Council of Denver recognizes the urgency of the climate crisis demands more aggressive climate action from public and private entities at all levels.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL Date _____ PRESIDENT