

APRIL 6, 2021

STATEMENT OF:
MR. TROY WHITMORE
GOVERNMENT & REGULATORY RELATIONS OFFICER
UNITED POWER



COLORADO SENATE – TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

[HB21-1131: Cooperative Electric Associations Governance Requirements](#)

Good afternoon Madame Chair, Members of the Committee, Senators Winter and Coram:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon in favor of House Bill 1131. I'm Troy Whitmore, Government and Regulatory Relations Officer for United Power, Inc. United Power is a cooperative electric distribution utility serving nearly 100,000 electric meters in six, front-range counties. We are the largest member of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Our headquarters are located at 500 Cooperative Way in Brighton, CO.

We were pleased to participate in a thorough stakeholder process with Representative Amabile regarding this bill for several months prior to introduction. The United Power Board of Directors has taken a position of support on this bill.

This bill represents modernization improvements for electric cooperatives in director elections and corresponding procedures, formal authorization of virtual technology use for Board and member meetings, clear instruction on Board policies regarding compensation and disclosure of conflicts of interest and states that Board members of both a distribution cooperative (such as United Power) and generation and transmission cooperatives (such as Tri-State) shall not be required to give priority to fiduciary duty to one association over another.

We have no issue with the posting of rate tariffs and other important policies on our website as we already publish this important information.

We take great pride in transparently communicating with our membership and other interested parties. Back in 2010, we worked closely with Representative Claire Levy on a similar bill which improved our director election procedures and member notifications. This bill, HB 1131, further improves the foundational work accomplished more than a decade ago.

Special thanks for Representative Amabile for her outreach and communication during the past months. We truly appreciate the thorough stakeholder process. Thanks also to Senators Winter and Coram for co-sponsoring this bill in the Senate. Thank you for your time. Are there any questions?