August 12, 2019

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street
Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Honorable Council Members,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the process, or lack thereof, by which the Denver City Council may potentially place a measure on the November 2019 ballot to institute an energy tax and create a new office of Climate Action, Resiliency, and Sustainability.

We strongly support efforts to address climate change and our collective groups have been working positively on a number of recent climate issues in the City. However, we believe this significant and costly proposal should at the very minimum undergo a full and transparent City Council process to ensure it is adequately analyzed before being referred to Denver voters.

As you are aware, an initiative such as the one proposed has never been implemented in any major city in our country. Due to this fact, there are significant unknown impacts, as well as questions and concerns that would benefit from a thorough analysis and discussion from City Council and the community, small businesses and employers that are impacted by this measure.

It also is important that while a referral from City Council may not always equate with an endorsement of a measure, at the very least, voters likely expect a referred measure to have gone through an in-depth analysis from their elected officials before being sent to the ballot. Unfortunately, the current lack of process has not allowed for this.

Additionally, if the measure is referred to the ballot and passed by voters, City Council would not be able to fix any potential issues with the measure for one year. During this time, the measure, including its potential deficiencies, would already be in effect. Instead of facing this scenario, City Council should take the time and opportunity to engage with stakeholders now to ensure the measure is fully ready for implementation and not rush through such a significant measure when there is still a plethora of unanswered questions.

We are ready and willing to help address the issue of climate change and we hope to have the opportunity to do so through a true and transparent process.
The process should accommodate a thorough analysis of the measure to ensure it maximizes the benefits to our climate and Denver residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

American Subcontractors Association Colorado
Apartment Association of Metro Denver
Associated General Contractors of Colorado
Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors
Colorado Concern
Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association
Colorado Leads
Colorado Restaurant Association
Denver Metro BOMA
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Denver Metro Commercial Association of REALTORS
Denver Pipefitters Local 208
Downtown Denver Partnership
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Denver
Institute of Real Estate Management
International Council of Shopping Centers – Colorado
Mechanical Contractors Association of Colorado
Mechanical Service Contractors Association of Colorado
NAIOP Colorado
National Certified Pipe Welding Bureau, Colorado Chapter
National Utility Contractors Association of Colorado
Plumbers Local 3
Plumbing Contractors Association of Colorado
Rocky Mountain Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association
SMACNA Colorado
SMART Local 9 – Sheet Metal Workers Union
Xcel Energy

Cc: Skye Stuart, Mayor’s Office