**News Statement**

**Western Resource Advocates Urges Senate Agriculture Committee To Block Senate Bill 15-258**

*SB 15-258 Threatens Colorado’s Ability to Determine Own Energy Future*

**COLORADO (April 10, 2015)** - Erin Overturf, Senior Staff Attorney with Western Resource Advocates is testifying before the Colorado State Senate Agriculture Committee today to urge legislators to block Senate Bill 258, the Coordinated Review CO2 Emission Reduction Measures bill sponsored by Senators John Cooke (R-Weld County) and Jerry Sonnenberg (R-Sterling).

“Uncontrolled greenhouse gas pollution poses mounting risks to our Colorado economy, infrastructure, health, and national security. The electric power sector accounts for nearly 40% of all greenhouse gas emissions. To start to address climate change, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a proposed rule called the Clean Power Plan, which would regulate greenhouse gas pollution from power plants.

Within the state of Colorado, the Air Pollution Control Division and the Air Quality Control Commission are the expert technical agencies that develop and implement state rules in accordance with federal air regulations like the Clean Power Plan, tailoring their application to the unique circumstances of Colorado. Those rules, can already be reviewed by the General Assembly, in accordance with existing state law.

Yet, SB 15-258 would upend this established practice. Instead, this bill would require any Clean Power Plan rules adopted by the Air Quality Control Commission be subjected to a lengthy, full evidentiary hearing before the Public Utilities Commission. While the Public Utilities Commission has an important role in overseeing regulated utilities, it is not the state’s expert air quality agency. In addition, the bill would subject the Clean Power Plan rules to not one but two rounds of approval by both houses of the General Assembly.

As a result of these repetitive, unnecessary bureaucratic hoops, SB-258 would make it nearly impossible for the state of Colorado to submit an implementation plan to EPA by the June 2018 deadline in the Clean Power Plan proposal. EPA would then have authority to come into Colorado and dictate how Colorado must comply with the Clean Power Plan. **Essentially, Colorado would lose its ability to craft a solution that is right for our unique energy system, priorities, and vision.**

**SB-258 creates needless red tape and circular bureaucracy, while threatening Colorado’s ability to determine our own energy future and address climate change on our own terms.** SB-258 is unnecessary and harmful. I urge you to please vote no.”

*For the last 25 years Western Resource Advocates has been one of the West’s leading groups of experts protecting the region’s air, land and water. WRA’s lawyers, scientists and economists craft innovative solutions for the most complex natural resource challenges in the region. Go to [www.westernresourceadvocates.org](http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org) and follow us on Twitter @WRADV.*