

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-007

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE COLORADO PUC'S CLEAN-
HEAT/ELECTRIFICATION MANDATE AND AFFIRMING THE RIGHT OF
PARK COUNTY RESIDENTS TO CHOOSE THEIR ENERGY SOURCES.**

WHEREAS, In 2021, the General Assembly passed SB21-264 requiring gas distribution utilities - utilities that procure and distribute gas to retail customers (e.g. Black Hills, Colorado Natural Gas)—to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

WHEREAS, gas emission reduction targets for clean heat plans are pursuant to section 40-3.2-108(10), C.R.S.

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2025, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) adopted new rules under the state's "clean heat plan" that require natural-gas utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 41% by 2035 relative to 2015, with a de facto target of full de-carbonization (i.e. elimination of fossil gas use for home heating and cooking) by 2050.

WHEREAS, compliance with the PUC's mandate will impose significant costs on homeowners and businesses. The utilities' own filings estimate that retrofitting an existing home for all-electric heating and appliances can exceed \$20,000 per home (before incentives).

WHEREAS, statewide data shows that, on average, electricity remains significantly more expensive per unit of delivered energy than natural gas; under these conditions, forcing full electrification will raise monthly heating and energy bills — especially in rural and mountain communities.

WHEREAS, rural and mountain counties such as Park County often depend on a patchwork or "private electric grid" (or small distribution systems and cooperatives) that historically have had challenges delivering reliable, affordable electricity — particularly in inclement weather, winter conditions, or during wildfire-related outages.

WHEREAS, many Park County residents and businesses — including small businesses, farms, older homes, and seasonal residences — rely on energy sources other than electricity (e.g. propane, natural gas, wood, propane/natural-gas boilers, etc.) for heating and cooking, and must have the freedom to choose the energy source best suited to their housing, lifestyle, financial means, and risk tolerance; forcibly eliminating that choice would violate their property-rights and economic freedom.

WHEREAS, a forced transition to electricity as the sole source of heat and cooking would impose disproportionate burdens on lower-income residents, retirees on fixed incomes, small businesses, and rural property owners who may lack the resources to retrofit their homes, install ductwork or 220-volt service, or bear the increased monthly costs when electricity prices rise due to the infrastructure buildout the PUC and utilities plan.

WHEREAS, the PUC's decision — by prioritizing statewide decarbonization mandates over affordability, reliability, and local control — threatens the economic well-being, energy security, and personal freedom of County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park County Board of County Commissioners as follows:

1. **Opposition to Mandate.** Park County strongly opposes the PUC's "Clean Heat" mandate, which seeks to eliminate natural gas (and other non-electric energy sources) for home heating and cooking by 2050 as a condition of state-mandated decarbonization.
2. **Affirmation of Local Choice.** The County affirms and defends the right of its residents and businesses to choose how they power their homes and operations, including but not limited to natural gas, propane, wood, renewable off-grid electricity, or any other lawful energy source.
3. **Recognition of Rural Challenges.** The County recognizes that rural and mountain communities like Park County face unique challenges — including unreliable grid connectivity, harsh winters, wildfire risk, and limited economic resources — which make a one-size-fits-all electrification mandate inappropriate, unfair, and harmful.
4. **Call for Flexibility and Equity.** The County calls on the PUC, State Legislature, and utilities to revise or suspend the mandate and instead adopt a flexible, equitable energy policy that:
 - a. Allows for a mix of energy sources (gas, propane, wood, electricity, off-grid renewables) for heating and cooking.
 - b. Protects residents from excessive cost burdens and utility bill increases.
 - c. Considers reliability, resilience, and local conditions in rural and mountain counties.
 - d. Respects local control and individual choice over energy systems.
5. **Request for State and Utility Accountability.** The County requests that the PUC and utilities provide transparent reporting of cost and reliability impacts of electrification mandates as well as intentional electric outages controlled by the

provider leaving homes without service, — especially as applied to rural communities — before proceeding further.

6. Support for Alternative Solutions. The County supports and encourages voluntary adoption of clean energy and efficiency measures (weatherization, solar, wood-heat, hybrid systems, etc.) — but rejects mandatory retrofit requirements that impose heavy costs and eliminate choice.

7. Transmission to State Authorities. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Colorado PUC, the Governor, the Colorado General Assembly, and relevant utility providers, to ensure local voices from Park County are heard and considered in statewide energy policymaking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board stands ready to collaborate on policies that respect economic reality, rural energy needs, reliability concerns, and individual liberty — instead of one-size-fits-all mandates from distant regulators.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Colorado, held the 21st day of January 2026 in Fairplay, Colorado.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

By: _____

David B. Wissel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Milena Kassel
Milena Kassel, Clerk and Recorder