



March 29, 2006

Dear Representative of the House Appropriations Committee,

The Colorado School Plant Managers Association, (CSPMA), an organization of K-12 public school facilities, construction and maintenance professionals, has been monitoring the progress of HB 06-1158 with reservations and because of continued flaws in this bill is now opposing it as written.

We individually and collectively care deeply about the safety of the children, staff and public who use the school buildings that we are responsible to build and maintain. We are very interested in supporting efforts that will result in increased school safety. However, we believe the current version of this bill has serious flaws and will not accomplish this intent.

As outlined in our letter to the bill sponsors (copy attached), we have grave concerns about the financial burden this bill is likely to put on all school districts and their already limited maintenance and construction funding. The Bill not only provides for a whole new series of fees that we don't currently have, but also contains no limits on the fees which may be charged to the school districts for Building Permits, Plan Reviews, or building or fire inspections. The direct costs to the Division may be whatever the local jurisdiction or contractor charges the Division, plus the Division's costs.

The attached letter from the Jefferson County Public Schools Board of Education highlights some of the impacts of these new fees.

These new fees will take funding directly away from school maintenance and construction efforts with no significant benefit to the schools or the communities we serve. In many cases where voters have already approved construction related bond issues, we simply will not be able to meet our obligation of providing what they approved.

We are appealing to you to not endorse this bill, but to send it back for further work. As an organization, the Colorado School Plant Managers Association would be happy to work closely with the legislature on efforts to make actual improvements to school safety.

Sincerely,

the Officers and Membership of CSPMA
(signatures available upon request)

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