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**COLORADO**  
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**COMMITTEES**  
  
Member of:  
Education  
Transportation, Housing, &  
Local Government

Executive Director Maria De Cambra,

I, as well as the undersigned former and current local elected leaders, take great issue with your testimony on HB24-1007 opposing local governments.

As a former Mayor, I have looked to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for support on local issues. During my service, I viewed the department as a trusted resource for our counties and municipalities. It is vital that current local officials also perceive the department in which you serve as a neutral outlet for support.

During the House Transportation, Housing, & Local Government Committee hearing on HB24-1007, the remarks you articulated as Executive Director of DOLA trouble not only myself but also those who have endorsed this letter and the many voices they advocate for. It was vividly transparent that your position was in stark opposition to the very local governments you are obligated to serve by virtue of your position.

Your statements in relation to HB24-1007 prioritize activism over the proper role of your office and contradict your department's stated mission. DOLA's objective is "strengthening Colorado's local communities" and serving as the "primary interface between the State and local communities." However, after your testimony, it appears these objectives are in question.

The bill upon which you testified seeks to strip local governments of their autonomy and force their adherence to state-imposed one-size-fits-all restrictions. This is one of many matters of grave concern for the legislature that represents a clear infringement on the authority of counties, municipalities, and other local entities. DOLA's insinuation that local governments and constituencies lack the ability to effectively manage their communities is deeply troubling. This would subvert the will of voters who have exercised their voting rights in electing their local officials and undermine the local governments under which they reside.

As the Executive Director of DOLA, I would like to see your focus shift from activist politics to the proper role of the department. DOLA was created to work with local governments, not against them. Your testimony reflects an ongoing trend of state agencies encroaching on and working against local governments. All taxpayer-funded state agencies have an obligation to recognize all levels of our state government.