Northern Colorado Partners for Clean Energy (NCP4CE)
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July 30th, 2025

Platte River Power Authority Board of Directors
2000 E. Horsetooth Road
Fort Collins, Colorado

Dear Board Chair Arndt, Vice Chair Hall, and Directors Bergsten, Marr, Peck, Hahn, Marsh, and Israel:

The Organic Contract creating Platte River Power Authority was developed fifty years ago and has been revised from time to time. A candidate revision is now being drafted. Some of the proposed changes have been made public in the Board proceedings, while others have not been. Many seem to be minor modernizations and clarifications.

However, unfolding developments suggest this revision could be more consequential than most, and Northern Colorado Partners for Clean Energy (NCP4CE) requests that an entire draft be presented for timely public input. At its inception, Platte River was centered on new coal plants, built at a scale that was not reasonable for the municipalities to pursue individually. Now these plants are closing and we are in the twilight of fossil fuels, the burning of which has been recognized by all four municipalities as environmentally destructive and so not consistent with PRPA's or the municipalities' stated values.

At the same time, small-scale, distributed harvesting of ambient energy from non-fossil sources has never been easier or cheaper. The technology for creating a virtual power plant from those distributed energy sources is under development at the Energy Institute at Colorado State University, and should be included in future planning.

In reconsidering the contract at this time of rapid change, the owner municipalities -- and their ratepayers -- are best served by retaining considerable flexibility in experimenting with a variety of energy options, including contracts and self-generation, especially since Platte River has not established a plan or timeline to complete its transition away from fossil fuels. We believe it is important that the revised Organic Contract not limit these options in any way.

Coordination between the owner municipalities and with Platte River is of course necessary and prudent, but centralized orchestration is not always optimal and is not consistent with the spirit of independence that has characterized the relationship between the four communities so far. NCP4CE calls on the Board to invite wider participation of the owner municipalities in this rethink of possibilities and scrutiny of details before revising the Organic Contract.

Sincerely,

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