January 12, 2015

<http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/391/2015/0/>

*“Tolerance is the virtue of a dying society.”-****Aristotle***

**Days until Sine Die:** 115

Axiom thanks the many news sources from which we gather relevant stories for our weekly newsletter.  In most cases you will be able to read the full text article for each headline below by clicking on the link provided. The purpose of this format is to share newsworthy items while ensuring we adhere to copyright law.

**On Opening Day, Colorado Lawmakers Find Partisanship amid Unity Talk**

*The Denver Post*

In a day replete with ceremonial splendor, Colorado lawmakers gaveled the 70th General Assembly into session Wednesday, pledging a spirit of cooperation, even as flashes of partisanship foreshadowed the term to come.

# Opening Day at Colorado Legislature: Leaders Want to Help Middle Class, but Methods Differ

# *Denver Business Journal*

Colorado legislative leaders all called during their opening-day speeches Wednesday for the state's General Assembly to aid in the continued economic recovery of middle-class residents, but they suggested a variety of different options on how job creation should happen.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Names Doug Friednash as Chief of Staff**

*Office of the Governor*

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced Sunday Doug Friednash will be the next Chief of Staff, effective February 2, 2015.  As chief of staff, Friednash will oversee the management of state agencies, advise the governor and cabinet members on state issues and provide crisis management support, help to fill critical positions within the cabinet and senior staff, and support Alan Salazar as he continues to oversee policy and legislative initiatives.  Most recently, Friednash was a shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck where he managed government relations and public policy, including representing Panasonic Enterprise Solutions in their relocation negotiations with the state and the City of Denver.

Prior to joining the firm, Friednash served as the Denver city attorney, managing 100 attorneys and responsible for all municipal representation which included a broad range of matters such as collective bargaining, federal lobbying, leading negotiations involving Denver International Airport, and crafting local, state and federal laws and regulations.  Friednash’s public sector experience also includes two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives after being elected in 1992, receiving numerous awards during his two terms including Outstanding Freshman Representative, Business Legislator of the Year, Guardian of Small Business, and Friend of the Children. He also served as an assistant attorney general in the Colorado Attorney General’s Criminal Enforcement Section.  In his capacity handling private sector cases, Doug litigated public sector and complex commercial litigation. This includes chairing a national securities fraud case, representing pharmaceutical benefit management company and the largest privately-held jeweler in the United States in complex commercial litigation and trademark infringement issues.

Friednash graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a double-major in Business Economics and Political Science in 1984, and received a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law, where he served as Student Bar Association President and received the Outstanding Graduate award. Friednash currently serves on the University of San Diego Law School Alumni Board of Directors, Denver Public Schools Foundation Board, Concerts for Kids Board of Directors, Board of Directors, and works with the Global Livingston Institute.

**GOP Takes Charge in Congress, Runs into Swift Veto Threat**

*Denver Post*

In a blend of pageantry and politics, Republicans took complete control of Congress for the first time in eight years last Tuesday, then ran straight into a White House veto threat against their top-priority legislation to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline.  Republicans condemned the expected announcement, which came at the same time they were savoring the fruits of last fall’s elections and speaking brightly about possible bipartisan compromises in the two years ahead.

**TRIA Passes Congress**

Last Thursday the US Senate passed H.R. 26, the "Terrorism Risk Insurance program Reauthorization Act of 2015" by a vote of 93-4. With this legislation already having passed the House of Representatives Wednesday 416-5, the legislation will now be sent to President Obama to be signed into law.  The bill extends the terrorism insurance program that expired on December 31, 2014 by six years. It increases the insurer co-pay from 15 percent to 20 percent, gradually increases the program's trigger from $100 million to $200 million, and increases the recoupment amount by $10 billion, to $37.5 billion. H.R. 26 represents a sound bipartisan and bicameral compromise that has been several years in the making. The passage of this legislation should ensure the continued availability and affordability of coverage for terrorism risk in the commercial marketplace.

**Lt. Gov. Garcia Appoints Grand County Court Judge in the 14th Judicial District**

*Office of the Governor*

Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia last week announced the appointment of Nicholas Catanzarite as the Grand County Court Judge in the 14th Judicial District. The vacancy is due to the non-retention of the Honorable Ben McClelland.  Catanzarite is currently an attorney at the law firm of Peters Mair Wilcox in Winter Park. His practice focuses primarily on criminal defense, with an emphasis on alcohol and drug offenses. He also practices in the areas of land disputes, HOA law, dissolution of marriage, employment, partnerships, personal injury, and landlord/tenant conflicts. Before earning his law degree, Catanzarite was a member of the United States Paralympic Alpine Ski Team. Catanzarite earned his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, and his Juris Doctor and Master of Arts in International Development from the University of Denver in 2011.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Launches New Program to Assist long-term Unemployed get Back to Work**

*Office of The Governor*

Gov. John Hickenlooper last week joined the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and local business leaders to announce the launch of a $3 million program that will assist Colorado’s long-term unemployed in getting back to work. The program will be administered by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) and its funding will support a variety of assessment and training efforts and wrap-around support services at workforce centers statewide.  It’s been called a Catch-22:  the longer you are unemployed, the more unemployable you may seem to be.  At the new website, [www.hireforcolorado.com](http://www.hireforcolorado.com/), employers who can look past a long stretch of unemployment will be asked to sign an “employer pledge,” telling those job seekers that if they have the right skills and the capacity to learn and grow, they will be given a fair shot.

**2,000-ft Oil & Gas Setbacks Would Cost Tens of Thousands of Jobs, Billions in Economic Losses**

*CU Boulder Leeds School of Business*

A 2,000-foot setback from structures on oil and gas well locations would result in as many as 49,000 fewer jobs in Colorado between 2015 and 2040, according to a new study. The increased setback would also cause Colorado’s GDP to decline by as much as $6.4 billion annually and personal income would decline by as much as $4.4 billion annually in that same time period, the study finds. This analysis was completed in September 2014, and was based on price and production estimates at that time.

**Nominations Being Accepted for 2015 Governor's Creative Leadership Awards**

*Office of The Governor*

Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) last week announced that nominations are being accepted for the 2015 Governor's Creative Leadership Awards. These awards recognize organizations and individuals that have demonstrated a significant commitment to Colorado's creative landscape through civic leadership and volunteerism including advocacy, vision, collaboration or innovation.  Nominations will be accepted online through Feb. 6, 2015 at 4 p.m. Awards will be announced April 24, 2015 during a ceremony hosted in conjunction with the 4th annual Colorado Creative Industries Summit in Fort Collins.

**Bill tracking system is in place at The Chamber**

The 70th Session of the Colorado State Legislature has now begun and The Chamber Government Affair/Education/Energy Committee, with the help of our partners at Axiom Strategies, will be watching them closely to get a sense of their inclinations toward business issues--especially those that could have an impact on the Eastern Metro area.

As of this week, Axiom Strategies Inc. has the Capitol Watch online bill tracking system up and running.  Capitol Watch system gives us real-time updates on bills, votes, legislative positions and a vast amount of other information we can use to better assist you in successfully advocating your policy goals.

Over the next few weeks, the legislature will be introducing a significant number of bills.  You can use the following URL to see which bills Axiom Strategies Inc. is tracking on your behalf.  Feel free to check it frequently, as we will be updating your online profile daily.  Here is your tracking URL:

<http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/391/2015/0/>

This link to your bill tracker will be updated daily with newly introduced bills, status and position updates as well as Axiom comments on bills. With session just starting and a large number of bills being introduced, you can expect to see frequent editing over the course of the next few days.

**The Calculator**

House Bills Introduced:  72

Senate Bills Introduced:  53

Number of Bills PI’d:  0