Divide and rule, a sound motto. Unite and lead, a better one.”

November 4, 2013

 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

**Days Until the 2014 Legislative Session Begins: 64**

**Hickenlooper Delivers Proposed 14-15 Budget to JCC**

Governor John Hickenlooper on Friday delivered a FY 2014-15 proposed budget to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) that funds recovery efforts from wildfires and floods, cuts average wait times at drivers license offices, boosts the State’s budget reserve and continues government efficiency across state agencies.

The proposed budget also provides funding a new fugitive apprehension unit at the Department of Corrections and genetic testing by the Department of Public Safety of forensic medical evidence in connection with alleged sexual assaults.

“Colorado is still recovering from the most destructive flooding in the state’s history,” Hickenlooper said. “This budget frames what by necessity will have to be a collaborative effort that crosses party lines. We expect compromise from both sides that is based on common sense, which has no political affiliation.”

The FY 2014-15 proposed budget is $24.03 billion, of which $9 billion is from the General Fund. Relative to the expected FY 2013-14 appropriation, these amounts represent increases of $1.02 billion (4.4 percent) in total funds and $389 million (4.5 percent) in the General Fund.

Though most areas of the proposed budget will receive increases next year, there are many allocations for one-time expenditures. Priorities in the General Fund include:

• Keeping pace with inflation and student growth for only the second year in the past six by funding K-12 education with an increase of $223 per pupil (3.4 percent);

• Restoring higher education funding to levels that exceed the pre-Great Recession peak with an additional $101.8 million (15.5 percent), including a historic increase in financial aid and limiting tuition growth to 6 percent;

• Requesting a comprehensive initiative to reduce average wait times at drivers license offices to 15 minutes (from 60 minutes today); and

• Establishing a 6.5 percent reserve ($554 million) in the General Fund. Additionally, the budget proposal includes repaying $109.4 million in cash funds that were transferred to the General Fund as well as reversing the 2003 pay date shift ($94 million).

The Nov. 5, 2013, statewide election includes two potential tax policy changes. These are not reflected in the current request. Should either or both measures pass, the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) will provide appropriate adjustments to the Joint Budget Committee.

It is important to note that extraordinary actions were needed to balance the State budget when times were not as good. As the State managed the impact of the Great Recession, reserves were drawn down in the General Fund to 2 percent. In addition to many budget cuts and unfunded priorities, other State fee sources were tapped to meet obligations.

“We believe it is time to use some of the flexibility we have now to acknowledge and restore some of those resources,” the Governor wrote in a letter to the Joint Budget Committee.

Context for the General Fund budget relative to the Great Recession is appropriate. From FY 2007-08 to the forecast for FY 2014-15, inflation and population growth will have totaled 28 percent. If the FY 2007-08 total spending level in the General Fund were increased by 28 percent, it would be $1.1 billion higher than the total requested at this time.

As the proposed budget relates to disaster recovery, OSPB reports:

“We believe the General Fund support for disaster recovery will require the remainder of the excess funds this year ($144 million), but that number could rise in the current year. To date, we have already transferred $122.1 million in transfers to the Disaster Emergency Fund. This total includes the full balance of the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund, which served as part of the TABOR emergency reserve. We believe it should be repaid this year. The balancing of $144 million of disaster funding comes as follows: $50 million added back to the Medicaid budget, $48 million replacement to the CMTF, and $46 million transferred to the Disaster Emergency Fund. Meanwhile, next year we are requesting to continue adding resources for water and wastewater issues with a $12 million General Fund request to support local efforts to meet nutrients standards or restore water systems as part of flood recovery. By taking these actions, we are confident that appropriate resources will be available for emergencies and recovery next fiscal year.”

***Highlights of the proposed budget for FY 2014-15 include:***

**Education**

The proposed budget includes more than $258.4 million ($222.1 million from State sources) in new total program funding for K-12 education, reflecting enrollment growth of 1.3 percent (10,680 students) and 2.6 percent inflation. This equates to an increase of $223 per pupil. Because of the unanticipated expenditures for disaster recovery, and the substantial new resources into the State Education Fund, the budget includes approximately 57 percent of the increased funding to K-12 education be financed via the SEF. This policy allows the State to use the expected new General Fund revenue in FY 2014-15 (in addition to growth in local property taxes) for the remainder of our request. For FY 2014-15, the State is targeting an ending fund balance in the State Education Fund of $700 million, with a long-term goal of $400 million as a reasonable balance under current law. Based on current forecasts, a $400 million fund balance will be achievable if the additional FY 2015-16 General Fund appropriation to total program is $214 million.

**Higher Education**

The proposed budget includes a $101.8 million increase (15.5%) in the General Fund appropriation to the Department of Higher Education, which will restore funding levels that exceed the pre-Great Recession peak (although not accounting for inflation and student growth since then). Of this amount, the budget includes $60 million for institutional operating expenses, equating to an 11 percent General Fund increase for each institution. This request doubles the operating increase provided last year and is intended to control tuition increases. As such, tuition increases should not exceed 6 percent in FY 2014-15. In addition, the request includes $40 million in new resources for student financial aid. Of this sum, $30 million is for need-based aid, $5 million is for college work/study programs, and $5 million is to restore the merit scholarship program. This increase for financial aid represents a 42 percent increase, the largest in Colorado history, and will make college more affordable for thousands of Colorado students.

**Health Care and Human Services**

The request for the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing, Human Services, and Public Health and Environment includes caseload growth and related increases in the Medicaid program, new resources for programs that serve the developmentally disabled, continuation and full-year funding for child welfare and mental health improvements that started this year, and a 1.5 percent provider rate increase.

In this particular request, comparison to the current year must account for the movement of the Developmental Disabilities program from Human Services to Health Care Policy and Financing. Relative to the current year appropriation, the combined total funds request for these departments is $9.37 billion, a 7.1 percent increase ($618 million). The combined General Fund request for the two departments is $2.95 billion, a 5.9 percent increase ($165.2 million).

Caseload growth in the Medicaid program reflects lower caseload increases than those experienced during the Great Recession, but also reflects that the economic recovery still has not reached all Coloradans. In addition, newly eligible clients under SB 13-200 are reflected in the growth rates. Relative to the current year, total Medicaid enrollment will grow by 154,431 clients to 967,681. Without the expansion populations, growth would have been 53,392. Medicaid enrollment increases are also in part the result of large drops in the Children’s Health Plan Plus program. Recent law changes made some CHP+ clients eligible for Medicaid.

Meanwhile, the Accountable Care Collaborative program is reporting substantial costs avoided and improved outcomes and the State is approaching 400,000 people enrolled. The program relies on systems of integrated care to lower costs. The most recent report indicates that the $36.4 million initiative resulted in costs avoided that in a range of $44 million to $64 million.

With respect to programs that serve people with developmental disabilities, the budget request includes $21.9 million total funds including $12.7 million General Fund for three initiatives. First, there is an additional $15.5 million total funds, including $7.7 million General Fund to address the current 1,526-person waiting list for the Home and Community Based Services Supported Living Services waiver. Second, there is $3.4 million General Fund to Family Support Services; these services are flexible to family needs and range from respite care to transportation to home/vehicle modifications. Third, there is $2.8 million total funds, including $1.4 million General Fund to add full program equivalents for 186 youths and adults needing transition to new programs, leaving institutions, or in emergency situations. (A small administrative item completes the totals.)

Other important features of the request in these areas include: $7.1 million from the existing fund balance in the Medical Marijuana Cash Fund for research on various illnesses and disorders; approximately $2.3 million for various initiatives at the Mental Health Institutes and $750,000 for access to mental health first aid training around the state.

**Economic Development**

State government can enhance Colorado’s economic vibrancy with targeted and accountable support for economic development initiatives. The request includes: $5 million for the Advanced Industries Accelerator Program as established by HB12-1001; $5.0 million for the Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media; $3 million for resources for the Economic Development Commission Strategic Fund; an additional $2 million for tourism promotion; and $400,000 for the Minority and Women Owned Business Office. Smaller requests include $220,000 for the procurement technical assistance center started in HB13-1301, $175,000 for the Aerospace Strategic Plan and $100,000 for the economic gardening project started in HB 13-1003.

**Corrections and Public Safety**

The Department of Corrections expects the incarcerated population will increase by 451 offenders (2.3 percent) over the prior forecast. This increase drives an incremental cost of $4.8 million General Fund. The DOC’s budget request also includes funding for increased medical costs ($2.8 million), sex offender treatment monitoring ($1.2 million), and several other smaller initiatives. For the Division of Parole, the budget includes $951,314 for a new fugitive apprehension unit along with a $10 million placeholder to implement upcoming recommendations from new leadership at the Department. In total the request for the DOC in the General Fund is for a $42.2 million increase (6.3 percent).

In the Department of Public Safety, the most notable budget allocation is for up to $14 million for the provisions of HB 13-1020, which required genetic testing of forensic medical evidence in connection with alleged sexual assaults. While the State is waiting for additional information regarding the scope of this endeavor, this funding is set aside and not reflected in the Department’s budget schedules.

Meanwhile, other requests in the Department include new resources for acquisition of new portable radios for the State Patrol ($1.3 million HUTF), for continued operations at the State Fusion Center ($656,134), and to investigate and prosecute cyber attacks against the State through the Colorado Cyber Crime initiative ($489,074).

**Common Policies**

The request includes resources to increase compensation to the State’s workforce with a 1.5 percent across the board salary increase and an average performance-based merit increase of 1.5 percent. This policy has a total funds cost of $52 million, $26.8 million of which is from the General Fund.

Other common policies accounted for in the various departments include: the existing and statutorily planned increases for the amortization equalization disbursements for the Public Employees Retirement Association ($23.0 million TF, $11.0 million GF); increases in health, life, and dental insurance rates to match prevailing rates ($14.2 million TF, $6.5 million GF); and State fleet vehicle replacements ($2.3 million TF, $0.3 million GF) including funding for 777 new vehicles, 295 of which will be able to run on compressed natural gas.

**Capital Construction and Controlled Maintenance**

The request includes significant new resources to maintain State buildings, to complete existing projects, and to make required payments on various certificates of participation. A transfer of $199.3 million from the General Fund to the Capital Construction Fund is necessary to complete the requested list, which includes place holders for 2 projects that will be submitted as budget amendments (the State has set aside sufficient funds to increase the requested transfer). Notable requests include:

• $44.5 million for three certificates of participation (Anschutz Medical Campus, Federal Mineral Lease, and Centennial Correctional Facility);

• $25 million for Level 1 controlled maintenance projects around the state and in the Department of Higher Education (these projects will be determined by the Office of the State Architect);

• $22.8 million for completion of the library renovation on the Auraria Campus;

• $13.3 million for the Visual and Performing Arts Center at CU-Colorado Springs;

• $4.9 million to deliver recommended changes to the Youth Offender System that resulted from the Prison Utilization Study in HB 12-1336;

• $4.6 million for the Veterans Memorial Cemetery Expansion in Grand Junction;

• $4.5 million for suicide prevention projects at the Mental Health Institutes in Pueblo and at Fort Logan.

**Information Technology**

The State has taken many steps to modernize information technology assets in recent years, but there is more work to do. First, the State has completed a comprehensive assessment of what it would take to get the average wait time at a typical Division of Motor Vehicles office down to 15 minutes from the 60 minute average now. In addition to staffing increases in the Department of Revenue operating budget, a new computer system to replace the current system is necessary. Major components of the system date back more than 30 years. After three decades, outages are frequent and the system is becoming unstable. The new system is projected to cost $93.4 million over two years. The budget request includes approximately half of this amount for FY 2014-15. Second, the way State employees manage and track their time needs to be standardized. A complete and consistent system that performs timekeeping, scheduling, and leave tracking will create efficiencies in personnel management, improve financial accountability, and reduce waste and mistakes compared with the current process. The new system is expected to cost $16.1 million.

**Cash Fund and Other Repayments**

To balance the budget during the last two recessions, the State used many cash fee sources and accounting changes to balance the budget. First, in 2003, the State shifted the June 30, 2003 pay date to July 1, 2003. This allowed the State to avoid serious operational impacts as it managed a revenue downturn that rivaled that of the Great Recession. Second, during the most recent downturn, some insurance trust accounts (the Workers Compensation, Subsequent Injury, and the Major Medical Insurance funds) in addition to others were swept into the General Fund. In just the last recession, several hundred million in cash fund transfers were made to the General Fund.

The budget includes a reverse the pay date shift and repayment $109.4 million to selected cash funds. Over time, the customer fees needed to repay these accounts will be lower because of this action. Many cash funds are meritorious for repayment and the State prioritized the repayments based on an assessment of the number of people affected and the amount of money transferred. In addition, some cash funds represented balances that were inconsequential or were in defunct programs.

**Reserves**

Meanwhile, recent natural disasters have demonstrated the value of being financially prepared for unanticipated events. As noted earlier, just a few years ago, the General Fund reserve dropped to 2 percent. The State has worked hard together to achieve the current 5 percent level. For perspective, in the last two recessions, General Fund revenue declined approximately 15 percent each time. The State has planned next year’s budget around ending the year with a 6.5 percent reserve. This represents about 24 days of operating, compared with just seven at the 2 percent level. Also, achieving the new reserve level will fulfill the vision anticipated in Senate Bill 09-228 and make any eventual transfers to construction and transportation under the law easier to accommodate. The Governor’s Office is requesting the Joint Budget Committee sponsor legislation for this proposal.

**New Senate President-Elect and Majority Leader**

Last month the Senate Democrats elected Sen. Morgan Carroll (D-Aurora) as the President-Elect and named Sen. Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) as Majority Leader. The election follows the recalls of former Senate President John Morse (D-Colorado Springs) and Senator Angela Giron (D-Pueblo) that occurred last month as a result of their push for stricter gun laws. Democrats now have a narrow 18 - 17 majority.

“We have a strong, talented and diverse caucus which helps us better serve the people of the State of Colorado. I look forward to working with anyone and everyone interested in tackling the greatest needs of our state," said President-Elect Carroll.

The other Senate Majority leadership positions will remain unchanged.

Sen. Lucia Guzman (D-Denver) will continue as President Pro Tempore. Sen. Guzman serves Senate District 34, which spans Northwest Denver. She worked in higher education, owned a coffee shop, became an ordained minister and was elected to the Denver Public School Board of Education before entering state politics. She was appointed to fill a Senate vacancy in May 2010, then was elected to a four-year term in November 2010.

Sen. Irene Aguilar (D-Denver) will continue as Assistant Majority Leader. Sen. Aguilar serves Senate District 32, which primarily spans Southwest Denver. She is a primary care physician, and her interest in health coverage issues helped her get involved in state legislation and committees before running for office. She was elected to the Senate for a partial term in 2010, and was elected for a full term in 2012.

Sen. Jeanne Nicholson (D-Black Hawk) will continue as Caucus Chair. Sen. Nicholson has lived in the Gilpin community for 40 years, serving two-terms a Gilpin County Commissioner and working as a public health nurse. She was elected to serve Senate District 16 in 2010. Sen. Nicholson has two sons, one foster daughter, and two granddaughters.

Sen. Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass) will continue as Majority Whip. She serves Senate District 5, which spans seven counties in South-Central Colorado. She worked in the housing and ski industries after graduating from college, and served on the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the CU Board of Regents before running for the Senate. She was elected to her first senate term in the 2006 election, and was reelected to a second term in 2010.

Senate Majority Leader Heath Announces 2014 Committee Appointments

Yesterday, Senate Majority Leader Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) announced his decisions regarding committees of reference for the 2014 legislative session. This includes the number of senators to serve on each committee, naming majority party membership for each committee, and naming the chairs and vice chairs for each committee.

“I met individually with every member of our Senate Majority caucus before reaching my decisions on committee membership, and this helped me better understand their interests and skill sets. Together, I believe we have assembled a very strong group of teams by considering individual talents, diversity in membership, and institutional knowledge. Committees of reference play a very important role in our system of governance, and I am confident that our committees will serve the people of Colorado well during our upcoming legislative session,” said Senate Majority Leader Heath.

Committee composition and majority party rosters are as follows:

***Senate Agriculture***

Senator Gail Schwartz-Chair

Senator Matt Jones-Vice Chair

Senator Lois Tochtrop-Member

Senator Lucia Guzman-Member

***Senate Business, Labor and Technology***

Senator Lois Tochtrop-Chair

Senator Cheri Jahn-Vice Chair

Senator Gail Schwartz-Member

Senator John Kefalas-Member

***Senate Education***

Senator Evie Hudak-Chair

Senator Michael Johnston-Vice Chair

Senator Nancy Todd-Member

Senator Andy Kerr-Member

***Senate Finance***

Senator Michael Johnston-Chair

Senator Andy Kerr-Vice Chair

Senator Jessie Ulibarri-Member

***Senate Health and Human Services***

Senator Irene Aguilar-Chair

Senator Linda Newell-Vice Chair

Senator John Kefalas-Member

Senator Jeanne Nicholson-Member

***Senate Judiciary***

Senator Lucia Guzman-Chair

Senator Linda Newell-Vice Chair

Senator Michael Johnston-Member

Senator Evie Hudak-Member

***Senate Local Government***

Senator Jeanne Nicholson-Chair

Senator John Kefalas-Vice Chair

Senator Gail Schwartz-Member

***Senate State Affairs***

Senator Jessie Ulibarri-Chair

Senator Matt Jones-Vice Chair

Senator Irene Aguilar-Member

**Senate Transportation**

Senator Nancy Todd-Chair

Senator Cheri Jahn-Vice Chair

Senator Matt Jones-Member

**Senate Appropriations**

Senator Mary Hodge-Chair

Senator Pat Steadman-Vice Chair

Senator Jessie Ulibarri-Member

Senator Nancy Todd-Member

**Denver Post: New Recall Effort Targets State Sen. Evie Hudak**

A renewed and spirited effort is underway to recall Sen. Evie Hudak, a Democrat from Westminster, less than six months after an initial effort faltered.

Organizers from within Senate District 19 were certified by the Secretary of State last month to begin gathering signatures to have a recall placed on the ballot. The group, "Recall Hudak, too," must gather about 18,900 valid signatures within 60 days, and on its website the group even has a running ticker that counts down to the deadline.

"She has infringed upon our constitutional right to keep and bear arms. She has voted to make all citizens less safe and to drive hundreds of jobs from Colorado," reads an excerpt of the petition language e-mailed by Mike McAlpine, a spokesman for the group.

The effort puts in motion what many in Colorado political circles have feared: a never-ending election cycle.

Hudak's Democratic colleagues, Senate President John Morse and Sen. Angela Giron, were ousted in September by voters in their southern Colorado districts for backing controversial gun-control laws.

Hudak's metro-area district mirrors Morse's in that it's divided into thirds among Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters. Hudak won the seat in 2012 by about 580 votes with a third-party candidate on the ballot.

"A small group is seeking to undo the will of voters, who re-elected me to the Senate last November. Unable to defeat me then, they are now attempting a political power grab using a low-voter-turnout, no-mail-ballot recall election strategy," Hudak said in a statement, alluding to a Denver District Court judge's ruling on a constitutional matter that in turn nullified mail ballots in the recalls of Morse and Giron.

**KC Becker Joining House Democrats**

KC Becker, a Boulder city councilwoman, will be the next state representative in House District 13, which includes part of Boulder County and all of Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand and Jackson counties.

A vacancy committee selected Becker this afternoon to replace Rep. Claire Levy, who is resigning at the end of the month to become executive director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, a Denver-based research and advocacy group. Levy’s resignation takes effect Oct. 31; Becker will be sworn in soon thereafter.

“I’m thrilled and honored that the political leadership in HD13 selected me,” Rep.-designate Becker said “Claire has done an excellent job for the people of HD13, and I will do my best to continue her legacy of public service, and to be a great representative for the people in my district and the people of Colorado.”

“KC has a great background and excellent reputation, having made a strong impression in her previous endeavors and Boulder County politics,” Speaker Mark Ferrandino said. “I’m confident she’ll be a great addition to our caucus, and look forward to serving with her in the statehouse.”

“I’ve known KC for several years now, and I think very highly of her,” said Majority Leader Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, whose district includes part of Boulder. “It’s terrific that House District 13 will continue to be represented by a strong woman.”

Kathleen Collins Becker, 43, is in the final year of a four-year term on the Boulder City Council, where she was the council’s representative on the Boulder Urban Renewal Authority and was the city’s representative to the Denver Regional Council of Governments. Before that she worked for the Department of the Interior for six years, notably on public land issues in Colorado and Wyoming.

“I have a solid background on Colorado’s water, public land and environmental issues,” she said.

She has a law degree from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., and a master’s from the Burns School of Real Estate at the University of Denver’s Sturm School of Business. She also spent two years in the real estate business.

Becker and her husband, Miles Kunkel, are parents of two young children.

Republican Representative Carole Murray will Not Seek Re-Election

State Representative Carole Murray last month announced she will not seek re-election in 2014. Murray was first elected to the State legislature in 2008, representing Teller County and Southern Douglas County. Murray will finish her her third term serving in the legislature prior to the 2014 election.

Rep. Murray sent the following letter announcing her decision:

Dear Family and Special Friends:

Today I announced to the Douglas County Republican Executive Committee that I'm going to retire at the end of my term in January, 2015. This means I will not seek re-election in 2014.

A few years ago, I watched Lisle go through the process of "being done" with the work he had pursued so vigorously, and now I've been through the same process myself. I have very high standards of performance for my work, and I feel the time has come to turn over the job to someone else. As you may know, Lisle and I have recently discovered the special joy of travelling in our RV, and we're ready to do more of that!

Those of you receiving this email have been part of the weave of my life's fabric. Together, we've worked on issues, taken on political opponents, broken bread together, or enjoyed a few laughs. When I looked at the length of the list of names, I came to realize how truly blessed I am to have had such great people alongside me.

Together, we'll continue to give it all we've got for another year.

Thank you for your special friendship,

Carole

**Denver Post: Republican Rep. Amy Stephens to run for U.S. Senate in 2014**

In her seven years at the state Capitol, Rep. Amy Stephens' résumé includes a stint as House majority leader and the champion of a host of legislation that most recently includes her working across the aisle with Democrats to better protect the state's elderly from abuse.

And now, the Republican lawmaker from Monument has a new goal: become Colorado's next U.S. senator.

Stephens will formally announce her candidacy Saturday to challenge Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark Udall in 2014 — a move that increases the GOP primary field to four candidates vying to unseat an incumbent who, for now, many political observers view as relatively safe.

"Coloradans are exceptional people, and we deserve a federal government that reflects our values by upholding the Constitution, exercising fiscal discipline and respecting the privacy of law-abiding citizens," Stephens said in a statement to The Denver Post.

Stephens, alongside former Republican U.S. Sen. Hank Brown, will make her announcement at the Classical Academy in Colorado Springs before embarking on a four-stop tour along the Front Range this weekend to meet with voters.

Over the summer, Weld County District Attorney Ken Buck and state Sens. Randy Baumgardner of Hot Sulphur Springs and Owen Hill of Colorado Springs announced their candidacies for the GOP nomination for U.S. Senate.

All have a strenuous cash battle on their hands as Udall waits for a challenger and continues to amass money. The senior Colorado U.S. senator has a war chest of about $3.4 million.

In a Web ad announcing her candidacy, Stephens calls Udall "out-of-touch" with the struggles of Colorado families and vows to "fight against Obamacare's negative impact on seniors, doctors, families and job creators until the day we're finally able to repeal it."

But Stephens is certain to be lambasted by her Republican challengers for her sponsorship of a 2011 measure that set up the state's health insurance exchange — a key provision of President Barack Obama's signature federal health care law, upheld by the Supreme Court, that on Oct. 1 allowed participants to begin shopping for insurance plans.

Congressional Tea Party Republicans have called for the delay and defunding of Obamacare, which has led to a budget standoff in Washington that's left the federal government shuttered.

Still, Stephens is battle- tested for her sponsorship of the bipartisan legislation some have dubbed "Amycare." In 2012, she staved off a heated primary challenge from former Rep. Marsha Looper that was triggered by state redistricting.

"This is beginning to feel like the movie 'Groundhog Day,' as yet again the Colorado GOP is putting forward another Tea Party candidate who doesn't reflect the views of middle class, independent-minded Coloradans," said Rick Palacio, Chairman of the Colorado Democratic Party.

Stephens, who has founded her own consulting firm and worked for Focus on the Family, said she's more than confident that with the help of conservative activists, she can defeat Udall.

"Some people say America's best days are behind us," Stephens says in the video. "I believe our country's best days are ahead."

**New Justice to Colorado Supreme Court Appointed**

Gov. John Hickenlooper announced last month the appointment of Judge William Hood III to the Colorado Supreme Court. Hood will replace Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L.Bender, who is retiring Jan. 7, 2014, after serving on the Supreme Court since 1997 and as chief since 2010.

“William Hood has consistently demonstrated an ability to fairly apply the law while effectively administering justice,” Hickenlooper said. “He has broad experience as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney and civil litigator. Hood’s reputation for collaboration will make him an effective member of the Colorado Supreme Court.”

Hood, 50, is the 103rd person in the state’s history to be appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court.

Hood is currently a District Court Judge in the 2nd Judicial District in the City and County of Denver, a position he has held since 2007. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Prior to becoming a judge, Hood was in private practice at Isaacson Rosenbaum P.C. He previously worked for the Office of the District Attorney for the 18th Judicial District serving Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties, where he served different times as the Chief Appellate Deputy, a Chief Trial Deputy and Violent Crimes Unit Deputy. Hood also practiced as an associate at McKenna & Cuneo and Holme Roberts & Owen in commercial litigation.

Hood earned a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University and a J.D. from University of Virginia School of Law.

Hood’s nomination was supported by the Colorado Women’s Bar Association, the Colorado GLBT Bar Association, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Sam Cary Bar Association, the Colorado Civil Justice League and the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, among others.

The next Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice, which was decided by the court, will be Justice Nancy E. Rice. Hood will serve a provisional term of two years. If retained by voters, he will then serve a 10-year term.

**James K. Tarpey Resigns from Public Utilities Commission**

James K. Tarpey announced on Tuesday, October 29, he is resigning from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Colorado effective at the close of business on Jan. 6, 2014.

“James Tarpey brought a diverse background in energy, telecommunications and transportation to the PUC,” Hickenlooper said. “He also helped Colorado establish solid, fair rules and regulations for protecting the environment and promoting business. We will miss his calm, analytical presence on the commission.”

Tarpey was first appointed commissioner on the PUC in January 2008 by then Gov. Bill Ritter. As a commissioner, he participated in a wide range of matters involving the electric, gas, telecommunications and transportation industries. Tarpey was reappointed by Hickenlooper one year ago.

“I appreciate the opportunity Governor Hickenlooper gave me to serve as a commissioner and am proud to have been a part of the important work of the PUC since 2008,” Tarpey said. “Being a PUC commissioner has been very challenging and I definitely have enjoyed it. It also has been time consuming, and I'd like to work less and play more.”

The Governor’s Office is accepting applications to fill Tarpey’s seat on the commission. State statute requires there not be more than two members from any one political party. Two of the current members are Democrats. Resumes and cover letters indicating expertise and interest may be submitted to Doug Young, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Governor John Hickenlooper, at Douglas.Young@state.co.us by 1 p.m. on Nov. 13, 2013. Starting date is Jan. 7, 2014.

**Connect for Health Colorado Update**

Connect for Health Colorado released updated metrics covering the first three weeks of operations during a meeting of the marketplace Board of Directors.

“Colorado’s health insurance marketplace has seen steady interest since our launch,” said CEO Patty Fontneau. “In our first three weeks in business, we have had over 300,000 visitors to our site, with over 40,000 consumers creating accounts to purchase insurance.”

Snapshot from October 1-26:

 Unique website visitors: 316,326

 Calls and chats with Customer Service Center Representatives: 30,862

 Accounts created: 44,935

 Average call and chat wait time: 4 minutes 28 seconds

 Enrollments (number of people covered): 3,164

\*\* Enrollments in Colorado’s marketplace do not include Medicaid enrollments. \*\*

The Connect for Health Colorado Board of Directors received an update on Monday and discussed a wide range of topics, including areas where operations can improve. These included steps to improve management of certified insurance agent/broker and Health Coverage Guide accounts. The Marketplace has also implemented additional functions, including a medical provider directory for customers to search for plans which include their preferred providers.

“We recognize that there are areas where we can improve our services,” said Fontneau. “We are working seven days a week to make those improvements and ensure that all of our agents/brokers and Health Coverage Guide partners are able to help customers shop and enroll in health insurance.”

The Marketplace has been open to individuals, families and small businesses since October 1, offering health insurance options that will take effect as early as January 1, 2014. The Customer Service Center in Colorado Springs has experienced high call volumes, especially in the last week.

Open enrollment continues until March 31, 2014. Individuals and families can choose from up to 150 private health insurance plans from ten carriers and small employers can create small group plans from up to 92 health insurance plans provided by six carriers. New financial assistance will be available to nearly 500,000 Coloradans to reduce costs. The Customer Service Center is open from 7 am to 8 pm Mondays through Saturdays at 1-855-PLANS-4-YOU (855-752-6749).

The marketplace is a public, non-profit entity that was established by a 2011 state law. More information is available at www.ConnectforHealthCO.com.

**Workers’ Compensation Stakeholder Meetings**

The Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE) has convened a number of Workers’ Compensation Stakeholder meetings during the interim. At the final meeting on October 28, the Director of the Workers’ Compensation Division of CDLE, Paul Tauriello, presented answers to a number of questions posed to the Department regarding workers’ compensation in Colorado. For a copy of this Q&A document, please email Erin Goff at erin@axiompolitics.com.

Govs. Hickenlooper, Inslee Call for Flexibility in Federal Banking Regulations for Marijuana Businesses

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday, Oct 2, called for flexibility in the federal banking regulations that will allow state-licensed marijuana producers, processors, and retailers access to the banking system.

“Colorado and Washington are in the process of implementing citizen initiatives permitting the production, processing, and sale of marijuana to adults for recreational use, in compliance with state law,” the governors say in a letter together. “Access to the banking system by these state-licensed businesses is a necessary component in ensuring a highly regulated marijuana system that will accurately track funds, prevent criminal involvement, and promote public safety. In order to achieve the mutual federal and state goal of establishing tightly-controlled marijuana regulatory systems, we urge you to issue inter-agency guidance that will allow legal, licensed marijuana businesses access to the banking system.”

The letter was sent to Jacob Lew, Secretary of the Treasury; Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve; Martin Gruenberg, Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Thomas Curry, Comptroller of the Currency in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and Debbie Matz, Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration.

The letter calls on federal banking regulators to provide guidance to enable the banking industry to offer full banking services to state marijuana licensees.

“It is apparent through the work of our state regulatory agencies and testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee that, absent a means to properly account for the significant amounts of cash generated by licensed marijuana producers, processors and retailers, our states’ and (U.S. Department of Justice’s) interests in promoting public safety and preventing diversion of marijuana and criminal activity will be exceedingly difficult,” the letter says.

For example, the letter says, both states will soon be licensing hundreds of retail stores, each of which will, without a normal banking relationship, be forced to conduct business on an all-cash basis. “This creates an unnecessary inviting target for criminal activity,” the letter says.

Enabling marijuana producers, processors and retailers to accept credit and debit cards, accept and deposit cash and checks, and pay third parties by credit or debit cards, check or wire transfer, would reduce the amount of cash in the system.

“Permitting normal banking relationships for state marijuana licensees would also assure a means of tracking the flow of funds, and prevent diversion of marijuana proceeds to illegal activities and to states and foreign jurisdictions in which marijuana remains illegal,” the letter says.

The Governors ask federal banking regulators to work with the USDOJ, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Office of Foreign Asset Control and the Internal Revenue Service to provide a highly controlled banking solution within the scope of present laws to help Colorado and Washington conform to the USDOJ enforcement priorities.

“Presently, there are a host of banks and credit unions in Colorado and Washington that we understand are willing to provide normal banking relationships to state marijuana licensees,” the letter says.

**Flood Disaster Study Committee Formed**

Last month the Legislature’s Executive Committee formed the Flood Disaster Study Committee to consider policy or statutory changes in response to devastating floods that hit Colorado in early September.

Members of the Committee include:

Senator Matt Jones (D-Boulder)

Senator John Kefalas (D-Ft. Collins)

Senator Kent Lambert (R-Colorado Springs)

Senator Jeanne Nicholson (D-Black Hawk)

Senator Scott Renfroe (R-Greeley)

Representative Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland)

Representative Mike Foote (D-Lafayette)

Representative Stephen Humphrey (R-Severence)

Representative Jonathan Singer (D-Longmont)

Representative Jerry Sonnenberg (R-Sterling)

Representative Dave Young (D-Greeley)

The committee will assemble five times during the 2013 interim and 2014 regular legislative session, and it may convene around the state, particularly in flood-affected areas.

The committee is charged with the following:

• Reviewing existing state policy for addressing flood disasters

• Developing policy that reacts to the Sept. 2013 flood and forthcoming floods

• Addressing general flood response, prevention, and mitigation

Flooding occurred in several Colorado counties the week of Sept. 9, taking the lives of eight people, with one person still missing. In the aftermath of the storm, Gov. Hickenlooper has declared 24 counties disaster areas. Damage was widespread with about 26,000 households directly affected, 30 bridges and 203 commercial buildings destroyed, and roughly 200 lane miles of state highway affected.

**Flood Recovery Progress, Additional Counties Eligible for FEMA Assistance**

Gov. John Hickenlooper late last month announced the state’s recovery effort is on track with 77 percent of roadways damaged by the historic September floods now open. Also, residents in two additional counties are now eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) individual assistance and eight more counties are eligible for FEMA public assistance, and the ColoradoUnited.com website is successfully handling inquiries for help, information and resources.

**Recovery Progress on Track**

More than 1,600 people in Colorado -- comprised of members from FEMA, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, the National Guard from Colorado, Kansas, Montana and Utah, the Army Corp of Engineers, IHS and other technical and service providers -- are working on recovery efforts and report the following:

• 77 percent of damaged roadways are now open, with the remaining on track for opening by Dec. 1.

• 491 bridges have been inspected, only 120 need repair.

• FEMA has approved $43.9 million in Individual Assistance.

• The Small Business Administration has approved $29 million low-interest disaster loans.

• The Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program cap was raised to $450 million.

• The Colorado Water Conservation Board increased to $40 million the funds available to help repair water systems and approved $12 million in loans this week.

• The Office of Vital Statistics and local vital records offices have issued 254 free birth certificates and waived the correction fee for 12 certificates. This collaborative effort means families affected by the floods saved a total of $4,800 in fees.

• CDOT facilitated two telephone town halls to discuss progress on repairs, access to personal property and county roads. The U.S. 34 call on Oct. 10 had more than 3,600 participants and on Oct. 22 there were 650 participants on a Coal Creek Canyon call.

**Additional Counties Now Eligible for Individual and Public Assistance from FEMA**

Residents of Fremont and Morgan counties whose homes or businesses were damaged in the floods now are eligible for Individual Assistance from FEMA. Also, eight additional counties are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance: Arapahoe, Crowley, Denver, Fremont, Gilpin, Lake, Lincoln and Sedgwick. Impacted residents with questions regarding FEMA assistance can call 800-621-3362 or visit www.coemergency.com

Gov. Hickenlooper Declares Disaster Emergency for Additional Eight Colorado Counties

On Wednesday, October 9, Gov. John Hickenlooper signed an Executive Order to declare a disaster emergency due to the flooding for an additional eight counties: Chaffee, Crowley, Gilpin, Lake, Lincoln, Otero, Park and Prowers. There are now a total of 24 counties included in the disaster declaration.

The executive order states:

“As a result of the historic flooding this September, eight people were killed, one person is still missing, 218 people were injured and over 18,000 people were forced to leave their homes. Damage to property has been widespread and extensive: 1,882 homes have been destroyed and FEMA estimates that over 26,000 households are directly affected by the flooding. as of Oct. 6, 2013, 23,078 households have registered with FEMA.”

“The Colorado Department of Transportation, with assistance of the National Guard of Colorado, the National Guard of other states and local jurisdictions, has made record setting progress in repairing highways, roads, and bridges. Nevertheless, communities continue to be isolated, residents remain displaced, and many local businesses are shuttered or struggling. Three water treatment facilities and four wastewater treatment facilities are still not operating, with over twenty of each needing some type of repair and/or restoration. This does not include the miles of water and wastewater lines that need repair or replacement. As the state continues to realize the magnitude of this disaster, additional counties require state assistance to recover and rebuild.”

The counties previously included in the disaster declaration are: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, El Paso, Fremont, Jefferson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Pueblo, Sedgwick, Washington and Weld.

**State Launches Website for Disaster Recovery**

Gov. John Hickenlooper last month announced a new website that will serve as a comprehensive one-stop location for information about recovery efforts related to the historic flooding in Colorado last month.

The website, ColoradoUnited.com, includes the latest recovery news, current information about impacted areas and how to get help. There is also a place where the public can contact the Recovery Office through a simple form that will be reviewed and responded to within 24 hours.

“All of Colorado is united in helping communities impacted by flooding recovery,” Hickenlooper said. “This website puts important information all in one place and will serve as a resource for people and businesses that are rebuilding. The site will also include the latest updates about recovery efforts and give people a way ask questions and get help quickly.”

The name ColoradoUnited was chosen to illustrate how communities in and out of the flooded areas are coming together to help recovery efforts and are united in making Colorado better and stronger after the disaster.

Visitors to the new website will find an interactive Google map that includes information about road closures, shelters, weather conditions and current traffic flow. The site also includes embedded links to traffic cams and dozens of pictures taken by the Civil Air Patrol.

A “Get Help” part of the website includes information about temporary housing, financial and insurance assistance, medicine and counseling, legal assistance, rebuilding houses, businesses and farmers, and disaster unemployment assistance.

Another section about “Home Safety” includes tips for returning home safely to engage in cleanup and rebuilding. There are other resources for water and food safety, clearing debris and sanitation and winterizing homes.

Gov. Hickenlooper Announces 44 Statewide Transportation Projects for RAMP Program

Gov. John Hickenlooper and the Colorado Department of Transportation Executive Director Don Hunt last month announced 44 partnership projects as part of the Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) program totaling $580 million to maximize and expand the statewide transportation system. The RAMP program was created in December 2012 as a new approach to budgeting and planning to accelerate the completion of transportation projects.

The RAMP program has also identified $66 million in operations projects throughout the state. Combined with an additional $800 million dedicated to statewide asset management projects to maintain the system, RAMP will result in approximately $300 million per year increase in project construction for five years, an increase of 50 percent. RAMP’s impact is significant for the state’s economy, as every $1.5 million spent on transportation projects sustains or creates 10.55 jobs.

Under the RAMP program, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will fund multi-year projects based on year of expenditure, rather than saving for the full amount of a project before construction begins. This will match project expenditures with available revenues and allow CDOT to fund additional transportation projects over the next five years. CDOT will continue moving forward the RAMP program in addition to the flood recovery efforts and will work with counties impacted by the flooding to determine the best time for project implementation.

“The local and private sector response to this program has been extraordinary, with CDOT receiving a total of 166 applications requesting more than $1.54 billion, over 2 times the total funding available,” said Hunt. “While it demonstrates the continued transportation needs we have statewide, we were also able to extend the reach of our RAMP funds because our local partners also contributed $118 million to these projects and we hope to leverage more from the private sector.”

In summary, the 44 partnership project elements include:

• 238 Lane miles improved

• 89 Lane miles added

• 26 Lane miles transferred from state system

• 116 Shoulder miles improved/added

• 13 Rehabilitated bridges

• 5 New wildlife passes

• 1 New pedestrian bridge

• 9 Reconstructed interchanges

• 4 “Main Street” highway projects

• 16 Transit/bicycle/pedestrian projects

For updated information visit http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/RAMP.

**CACI: Hutchison, Named CACI Board Chair for 2013-2014, Vows to Strengthen Business Environment**

Last month, the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI) Board of Directors elected Louis (Lou) Hutchison, Jr., CEO of Apokalyyis, Inc., to serve as the Board Chair for 2013-2014.

Apokalyyis provides custom-tailored deep analytics solutions for companies in multiple vertical industries. Apokalyyis' solutions are built upon its proprietary relationship recognition algorithms.

"Lou will be a terrific Board chair," said CACI President Chuck Berry, "and I look forward to working with him as he leads CACI by advocating our pro-business mission for the coming year."

"Having been a member of CACI for over 8 years, I have seen the benefits that CACI brings to its members and the Colorado business community," said Hutchison. "It is a great privilege to be able to continue to work with the outstanding staff, Board and membership to strengthen a healthy business environment in Colorado."

The CACI Board also elected Leland Lorentzen, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Financial Officer, Golden Aluminum, to serve as Chair-Elect.

**More than 600 Conservative Leaders Urge Congressional Action on Immigration Reform**

Earlier this week on Capitol Hill, more than 600 conservative leaders from nearly 40 states across the country delivered a unified message to more than 100 members of Congress: The House of Representatives needs to move forward this year on broad immigration reform.  Top conservative faith, law enforcement, and business leaders met at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce before fanning out to Hill offices, all part of “Americans for Reform: Immigration Reform for our Economy, Faith and Security.”

Hosts included the Partnership for a New American Economy, the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network, FWD.us, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Leaders were meeting with their lawmakers to send a clear message that they support reform for the sake of our nation’s economy, security and moral integrity, and that passage of reform is urgent.

“Immigration reform remains a top priority for the business community, and the Chamber and our partners will continue to do everything we can to make the case for reform this year,” said Bruce Josten, the U.S. Chamber’s Executive Vice President for Government Affairs. “Acting on immigration during the 113th Congress would be an enormous achievement for our country and our economy, and would show the public and the world that the United States can still get things done.”

“FWD.us is thrilled to participate in the fly-in to help bring members of the tech community to DC from across the country,” said Joe Green, the President and Founder of FWD.us. “We believe it's a great way to help demonstrate the robust support for meaningful immigration reform among a broad coalition of faith leaders, business owners, and law enforcement, among many others. We care deeply about the human element of fixing our broken immigration system so that we do right by our economy and American families; we want to help bring that message to DC as successful entrepreneurs, job creators, and community members.”

Sponsors of the fly-in included the American Farm Bureau Federation, TechNet, Wal-Mart, and the Western Growers Association.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Urges BLM to look to Colorado as Model for Sage Grouse Management**

On Thursday, Oct. 31, Gov. John Hickenlooper and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced they are directly involved in conservation efforts and strategies to conserve the greater sage grouse (GSG) given its potential listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Working with local communities, private landowners and other entities, the State developed a comprehensive conservation plan in 2008 that included a range of voluntary efforts to protect habitat so as to promote thriving populations in the northwest region of Colorado. This plan was the basis for the State to build upon for the current consideration of possible listing. The State is working with all interests to assess how well these conservation efforts are working and what more can be done to improve upon them.

“Given the unique landscapes and natural resources in Colorado, a Colorado-based solution is more practical than one handed down by the federal government,” Hickenlooper said. “We hope the Bureau of Land Management will look at the public-private partnerships that have been so successful in Colorado as a model on how to get things done.”

The State is working with local communities and stakeholders on a plan that is designed to promote conservation while also preserving the vibrant economic activities occurring in this region of the state. For example:

• Colorado has spent more than $40 million since 2000 on GSG conservation efforts, including planning, land protection, monitoring and habitat restoration.

• Since 2004, DNR has protected more than 74,000 acres of GSG habitat (primarily via conservation easements). Another 24,000 acres are managed by other conservation organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy.

• Habitat treatments, such as invasive plant removal, have been conducted on 50,000 acres.

• Management plans exist on 273,000 acres, including wildlife mitigation plans, grazing plans, ranch management plans and habitat suitability plans.

• The State submitted the “Colorado Package” to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) – an update to the 2008 GSG Conservation Plan, developed with input from all 25 “lead responsible agencies.”

• An ongoing synthesis report includes analysis of wildlife protection regulations for oil and gas operators, efforts from northwest counties to update or revise land use plans, summary and analysis of grazing practices and evaluation of State Land Board lands for habitat suitability.

• The State is driving for the right balance, one that provides robust protections for the GSG without the need for a federal listing while ensuring that northwest Colorado communities maintain economic health and flexibility. The State will continue working with our federal partners toward this outcome.

Regarding the proposed U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) revisions to its resource management plans to conserve the species, DNR has served as a cooperating agency throughout the development of the environmental impact study (EIS).

The State is preparing comments on the BLM’s draft environmental analysis by the due date of Dec. 2. The State’s comments will identify individual provisions largely within two alternatives that will help provide protection of species while not infringing on existing economic activities such as grazing, oil and gas production, and community development, and will propose the creation of a hybrid approach that accomplishes this in the final EIS.

Also, Hickenlooper sent a letter last April to USFW Director Daniel Ashe asserting that based on sound science and strong public-private partnerships within Colorado the Gunnison Sage Grouse, a different species with a distinct habitat range in Colorado, should not be listed.

Gov. Hickenlooper appoints new district court judge for Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake and Summit counties

Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed Paul Dunkelman to serve as the district court judge in the 5th Judicial District, which includes Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake and Summit counties. Dunkleman will fill a vacancy that occurred as a result of the resignation of the Hon. R. Thomas Moorhead.

Dunkelman currently works in private practice for the law firm of Carlson, Carlson & Dunkelman, LLC, where he focuses on family, criminal, civil and business law. He is also an adjunct professor at Colorado Mountain College and a prosecuting attorney for the Town of Leadville. Previously, Dunkelman was a law clerk in the 2nd Judicial District for the Hon. Lynne M. Hufnagel and the Hon. Paul A. Markson Jr.

Dunkelman earned a bachelor’s degree from Colgate University and a J.D. from the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver. The appointment is effective Nov. 30, 2013.

**New County Court Judge for Conejos County Appointed**

Gov. John Hickenlooper last month appointed Susan Broyles to serve as the county court judge in the 12th Judicial District in Conejos County. Broyles will fill a vacancy that occurred as a result of the resignation of the Hon. Mary Garcia.

Broyles currently assists pro bono clients with contracts, torts, business formation and dissolution, traffic and misdemeanor offenses, collections and insurance. For 10 years, she took a sabbatical from the legal profession to teach reading and writing to disadvantaged children in an inner-city school. Prior to that, she was a Special Assistant Attorney General representing the Department of Corrections. Broyles has worked in private practice, focusing on product liability/negligence, business formation and dissolution, contracts and discrimination cases. Prior to law school, Broyles was a non-attorney county court judge in Conejos County.

Broyles earned a bachelor’s degree from Adams State College and a J.D. from the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver.

The appointment was effective immediately.

**Boards and Commissions Appointments Announced**

Colorado’s 22 judicial districts have judicial district nominating commissions that select nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission. The members appointed to the ***19th Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission*** for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2018:

• Sylvia Martinez of Greeley, to serve as a non-attorney and as a Democrat from Weld County, and occasioned by the resignation of Joe Tennessen of Greeley.

• Alberto M. Dominguez of Windsor, to serve as an attorney and as a Republican from Weld County and occasioned by the resignation of Henry Frey of Greeley.

***The Auraria Higher Education Center Board of Directors*** manages the operational affairs of the three-school Auraria campus. The member appointed for a term expiring July 13, 2016:

• Tamara G. Door of Denver, reappointed.

***The Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board*** establishes guidelines for the administration of the ASCENT program; advises and assists local education providers and institutions of higher education in preparing cooperative agreements; makes recommendations as necessary to the General Assembly, the State Board and the Commission concerning the improvement or updating of state policies relating to concurrent enrollment programs, including but not limited to recommendations of policies that will allow every local education provider in the state to have adequate resources to enter into at least one cooperative agreement. The board makes recommendations to the State Board and the education committees of the House of Representatives and Senate, or any successor committees, regarding the feasibility of a waiver process whereby a qualified student could apply to the department for a waiver of certain provisions, which waiver would allow the student to be designated by the department as an ASCENT program participant in the second year following the year in which he or she was enrolled in the twelfth grade of a local education provider, so long as he or she meets certain criteria. The member appointed for a term expiring July 1, 2015:

• John Leonare Barry of Aurora, to serve as a member with experience in public budgeting and finance, and occasioned by the resignation of Cliff D. Richardson of Lakewood.

***The High-Performance Transportation Enterprise*** seeks opportunities for public-private partnerships for the purpose of completing surface transportation infrastructure projects. The Transportation Enterprise should have sufficient flexibility, consistent with the requirements of the state constitution, to pursue any available means of financing such surface transportation projects that will allow the efficient completion of the projects. The member appointed for a term expiring Oct. 1, 2017:

• Thomas M. “Trey” Rogers of Denver, to serve as a member who resides within the planning area of the Denver regional council of governments, and who has professional expertise in transportation planning or development, local government, design-build contracting, public or private finance, engineering, environmental issues, or any other area that the governor believes will benefit the board in the execution of its powers and performance of its duties.

***The Hospital Provider Fee Oversight and Advisory Board*** is responsible for working with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Medical Services Board to develop the hospital provider fee model, monitor implementation of the bill, help with preparation of annual reports on this program, and ensure that the Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility expansions are implemented as intended. The appointment must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring May 15, 2017:

• Mirna Ramirez-Castro of Thornton, to serve as a consumer of health care who is not a representative or an employee of a hospital, health insurance carrier, or other health care industry entity.

The Petroleum Storage Tank Advisory Committee establishes procedures, practices and policies governing the process for applying to the underground storage tank fund. The Fund reimburses eligible applicants for allowable costs in cleaning up petroleum contamination from petroleum storage tanks. The members appointed for terms expiring Oct. 16, 2016:

• Willliam Patrick Fisher of Erie, to serve as a representative of independent retail outlets.

• Anthony Robert Congram of Westminster, to serve as a private citizen.

***The Statewide Internet Portal Authority*** develops the officially recognized statewide internet portal that provides one-stop access to electronic information, products, and services in order to give members of the public an alternative way to transact business with the state. The appointment must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring June 1, 2014:

• Mary Kay Hogan of Denver, to serve as a representative of the private sector, and occasioned by the resignation of Stephan Michael Tadashi Bruce of Englewood.

***The STEMI Task Force*** studies and makes recommendations for developing a statewide plan to improve the quality of care to STEMI patients. By Jan. 31, 2014 the STEMI Task Force shall submit an initial report, and by July 31, 2015, it shall submit its final report, specifying its findings and recommendations to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the corresponding committees in the State House and State Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring Aug. 1, 2015:

• Lynn Blake of Avon, to serve as a member of the public who has suffered a STEMI heart attack.

***The Stroke Advisory Board*** evaluates potential strategies for stroke prevention and treatment and develop a statewide needs assessment identifying relevant resources to improve quality of care for stroke patients. By Jan. 31, 2014, and by each Jan. 1 thereafter, the Stroke Advisory Board shall submit a report specifying its findings and recommendations to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the corresponding committees in the State House and State Senate. The member appointed for a term expiring Aug. 1, 2017:

• Donald Francis Frei Jr. of Denver, to serve as a physician who is actively involved in stroke care and who is privileged and actively practicing and actively practicing as an interventional neuroradiologist.

**The Watercooler…**

**Water Resources Review Committee Considers 2014 Legislative Proposals**

The interim Water Resources Review Committee held its last meeting on Wednesday, October 30, and, among other agenda items, considered potential legislation to introduce during the 2014 legislative session.

⦁ Bill 7 – designated ground water district enforcement: killed

• Bill 8 – allow surface water replace well depletions: killed

• Bill 9 – simplified water court procedures: killed

• Bill 10 – division of water resources remove printing requirements: approved

• Bill 11 – oppose federal special use permit water right term: approved

• Bill 12 / Resolution 1 – forest products transport interstate weight limit: approved

The committee considered the following bills:

• Bill 1 – hydroelectric generation incentives: approved

• Bill 2 – water flexible markets: approved

• Bill 3 – wastewater treatment small communities grants: approved

• Bill 4 – create forest watershed roundtables: killed

• Bill 5 – modify cluster development statutes: killed

• Bill 6 – legislative water education fund: killed

These legislative proposals will next be considered by the Legislature’s Legislative Council Committee in order to get final approval for introduction during the 2014 legislative session.