

UNDER THE DOME

WITH THE NCLA

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NCLA BOARD JUMPS INTO 2014 SESSION WITH FIRST POSITIONS ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

For 22 years, the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance Board of Directors has convened twice per month during the 120-day legislative session to review, debate, consider and take official positions upon the multitude of legislative proposals pending before the state legislature. Last week, the NCLA Board jumped right into their role yet again and began to take positions on various bills thus far introduced.

The NCLA Board is encompassed of representatives from the broad spectrum of industry sectors found in northern Colorado and represent small, medium and large businesses to assure a well rounded debate and discussion of issues. A tenet of being a board member is a commitment to consider the general business interests when sitting at the NCLA board table and resist injecting any individual business agenda into the discussion.

NCLA SUPPORTS FIRST OF FLOOD RECOVERY MEASURES

NCLA took positions last week to support the first of several flood recovery measures introduced this legislative session. [House Bill 14-1006](#) was introduced in response to concerns that the various tourism agencies were unable to respond quickly with marketing their communities after the devastating floods because tax proceeds from the local marketing district flowing between the state and local tourism on a quarterly basis. HB 1006 proposes to change the cash flow mechanism to monthly so as to allow consistency in marketing even in the face of disaster.

Quickly rebuilding infrastructure in the region after the floods became the top priority for the state and local communities. The emergency, however, brought to light the statutory prohibition of county governments to use their general fund dollars for road and bridge projects. [Senate Bill 14-007](#) proposes to resolve the problem in the case where a disaster emergency is declared in an applicable county.

NCLA SUPPORTS PROACTIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEASURES

Three years ago, the NCLA, working with then-Representative John Kefalas (R-Fort Collins and now Senator) proactively sought and passed legislation to create the oft-named Angel Investor Tax Credit. The \$750,000 program found important success at a time when the economy was in a significant slump and finding capital for startups was difficult. For those startups who took advantage of the program to encourage

angel investment, the program made the difference between success and failure. The program is being reframed in a 2014 proposal, [House Bill 14-1012](#) by Senator Kefalas and is proposed this time around to provide \$2 Million in allowable tax credit funds.

During 2013, NCLA secured passage of legislation, [House Bill 13-1206](#) to bolster the retention of capital-intensive businesses who might otherwise consider leaving Colorado to find a better tax climate in light of Colorado's onerous business personal property tax. HB 1206 gave full discretion to local governments to negotiate business incentive agreements with qualified businesses to offset the business personal property tax. Under SB 14-043, the measure is taken one step further to allow the local government to negotiate all terms of the agreement including the contract time period which is currently capped at 10 years. It is anticipated this will promote strong interest in Colorado, and northern Colorado in particular, by the capital-intensive technology and manufacturing sector.