

UNDER THE DOME

WITH THE NCLA

JANUARY 27, 2014

NCLA TESTIFIES ON KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

“Quickly rebuilding the road infrastructure in the northern Colorado region was critical to getting our vibrant economy back on track after the devastating floods,” testified Sandra Hagen Solin, NCLA Issues Manager, last week in support of SB 14-007, a proposal which allows counties to transfer their general fund moneys into their County Road and Bridge funds after a declared disaster emergency. The Senate Local Government Committee, which includes Northern Colorado Senators John Kefalas (D-Fort Collins) and Vicki Marble (R-Windsor), passed the bill co-prime sponsored by Senator Kevin Lundberg (R-Berthoud) on a unanimous vote. The bill was passed by the full Senate on a unanimous vote later in the week.

WORKER’S COMPENSATION CHANGES BEING PUSHED BY LABOR

The Colorado AFL-CIO is promising to bring forth a legislative proposal during the 2014 legislative session to make changes to the current worker’s compensation system. Colorado’s current worker’s compensations system, however, is touted as one of the best in the nation for both the employer and the employee. NCLA, and several other business organizations, are asking if the AFL/CIO is proposing a solution looking for a problem.

Although they have been unable to demonstrate quantifiable impacts upon employees necessitating changes, the AFL-CIO is pursuing changes to the choice of doctor, to the employer workplace safety penalties and to how separation agreements are negotiated. A first draft of the changes in December was met with a mixed reaction from the business community. The NCLA held firm in its position that changes are unnecessary as the current system is working very effectively for both employee and employer.

Working in coordination with other like-minded business organizations including the National Federation of Independent Business, Associated General Contractors of Colorado, Ski Country USA, among several others, and engaging the Governor’s office, the NCLA’s push back on the AFL/CIO seems to be working. They have suggested a second draft is in the works but one hasn’t been released. Despite having the chair of the House Business Affairs Committee, Representative Angela Williams (D-Aurora) as their prime House sponsor, it appears they may be rethinking their initiative after finding most in the business community unwilling to negotiate.