



## Many Developments Last Week – Here's A Run Down

### Speaker floats TABOR Question to Keep State Revenues

Speaker of the House KC Becker [revealed today](#) that she is in fact working on a proposal to retain surplus revenues for education, transportation, higher education and other state priorities. The plan would be a Ref C like approach to retain revenues that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers for 5 years. Other details have not been worked out. It is projected that over 5 years, at least \$1B in revenue would be retained. The change would require 2/3 vote of the legislature and a citizen TABOR vote. A timeline of a vote has not been decided. Whether voters would be supportive is also an unknown.

### Colorado Energy Office Head to be Active Proponent of Zero Emissions

Will Toor, new head of the Colorado Energy Office, presented to the House Transportation and Energy Committee, his plans on how he'll move Polis' renewable energy plans forward. He said that he intends to use the office to push for zero-emissions electricity generation and zero-emissions vehicles and to concentrate on ways to bring down ozone pollution along the Front Range. He noted that the office will take on a new leadership role in increasing the electrification of the transportation system by promoting zero-emissions vehicles and easing Colorado away from having so many cars with internal-combustion engines. See article with more details [here](#).

### Governor Polis' Executive Order on Electric Vehicles

Governor Polis announced a [new executive order](#) to:

- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment shall develop a rule to establish a Colorado Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program and shall propose that rule to the Air Quality Control Commission no later than May 2019.
- Create an interdepartmental transportation electrification workgroup, to develop, coordinate and implement state programs and strategies to support widespread transportation electrification across the state.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) shall revise the state Beneficiary Mitigation Plan, which describes how the state will allocate nearly \$70 million received in trust funds due to the settlement of the federal Volkswagen emissions case. The revised plan will focus all remaining, eligible investments on supporting electrification of transportation, including transit buses, school buses, and trucks.
- The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) shall develop a department electric vehicle policy and plan designed to assure that state transportation investments and programs support widespread transportation electrification aligned with the articulated goals and strategies outlined by the above-mentioned workgroup.

### Oil and Gas Legal Victory Short-Lived

Colorado Supreme Court ruled against those who argued the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission should, as the priority, consider health and safety when making well siting decisions. The O/G industry victory was short-lived as the ruling has prompted Democrat Legislative Leaders and Governor Polis to commit to changing the state law upon which the ruling was based so health and safety will be a priority in those decisions. Attorney General Phil Weiser commented that he will be helpful in framing the language in the legislature.

### **Governor Polis Meets with Democrat Resistance to Budget Request**

Governor Polis presented his own budget request to the Joint Budget Committee and was met with resistance from key Democrat members of the committee. Polis' budget request asked for 80% of the newly available funds to be directed to his full day kindergarten plan, several million for an 8-week state employee paid family and medical leave program, and funds to begin the process of a federal waiver to pursue importation of prescription drugs from Canada. No funds were requested for transportation.

The JBC responded pointedly noting that transportation is essential and should be included. JBC Chair Dominick Moreno (D-Adams County) and JBC Member Rachel Zenzinger (D-Arvada) led the response and noted that they are charged with building the budget and transportation is essential. They also noted that funding full day kindergarten in its entirety this year was imprudent when there were other priorities and many school systems are ill-prepared to implement a full day kindergarten program.