



## NCLA Takes Positions on Measure Affecting Business

On a bi-weekly basis, the NCLA Board reviews and considers its position on pending legislation. The NCLA board took positions on the following measures during our last board meeting. See the [NCLA 2021 Legislative Tracking Report](#) for a listing the measures thus far introduced that the NCLA is monitoring and upon which the NCLA will take a position.

### **HB21-1027 – [Continue Alcohol Beverage Takeout and Delivery](#) – SUPPORT**

Many restaurants and bars wouldn't have survived the pandemic response without the authority granted during the pandemic to allow for takeout and delivery of alcoholic beverages. The option was so successful, restaurants and bars have asked for an extension of the option for a period time. NCLA supports HB 1027 for a limited time period to balance the continuing needs of the industry as well as small business liquor stores in our communities.

### **HB21-1043 [Study Underground Water Storage Maximum Beneficial Use](#) – SUPPORT**

Underground water storage is an innovative and environmentally thoughtful approach to addressing the water demands of our region and the state from municipal and agricultural use. In Greeley, the Terry Ranch project, the first of its kind aquifer reservoir project in the region, is in motion and this measure support those types of water innovations. NCLA supports HB 1043 and the funding of it from the Waters Plan Implementation Cash Fund

### **HB21-1047 – [County Commissioner Districts Gerrymandering](#) – OPPOSE**

Although permissive in nature, the NCLA opposes HB 1047 as violating home rule and local control of county commission districts. The measure establishes a process for county redistricting and the creation of independent county redistricting commissions for certain counties, including Weld County. Counties themselves should dictate when and how their Commissioner district boundaries are modified.

### **HB21-1048 [Retail Business Must Accept Cash](#) – OPPOSE**

During the pandemic, many businesses chose to accept credit cards only as a means to reduce transmission of the virus. Sponsors of HB 1048 argue that some individuals are unbankable and therefore can only make purchases with cash. The NCLA opposes mandates upon private business operations and therefore has taken an oppose position but encourages our retail business to consider accepting cash for transactions.

### **HB21-1052 [HB21-1052: Define Pumped Hydroelectricity As Renewable Energy](#) SUPPORT**

Under current renewable energy standards, electricity utilities are required to obtain a minimum percentage of their electricity from renewable energy sources. Pumped hydroelectricity generation is excluded from the definition of renewable energy resources. NCLA supports Loveland Representative and House Minority Leader Hugh McKean's HB 1052 and its proposed inclusion of hydroelectricity as a renewable energy source to meet the renewable energy goals.

### **HB21-1074 [Immunity for Entities During COVID-19](#) – SUPPORT**

Essential for businesses that engaged in business during the COVID response, HB 1074 establishes immunity from civil liability for entities for any act or omission that resulted in exposure, loss, damage, injury, or death arising out of COVID-19 if the entity attempted in good faith to comply with applicable public health guidelines. A version of this bill has been unsuccessful in the last special session and the 2<sup>nd</sup> segment of the 2020 session. The NCLA is more hopeful for a more favorable outcome on HB 1074.

### **SB21-005 - [Business Exempt From Public Health Order To Close](#) – SUPPORT**

SB 5 will be heard in its Senate Committee on Tuesday and NCLA will testify in support of the measure sponsored by Loveland Senator Rob Woodward. In future public health emergency orders that require the closure of businesses, SB 5 proposes to exempt a business if the business meets certain criteria the most

significant of which is that the products sold or services offered by the business are also available at a business that has not been required by the applicable order to cease or limit operations.

#### **SB21-087 - [Agricultural Workers' Rights](#) – OPPOSE**

Taking a significant swing at the agriculture industry, SB 87 would remove the exemption of agricultural employers and employees from the Colorado "Labor Peace Act" and authorize ag employees to organize and join labor unions, engage in collective bargaining, and establish overtime pay. SB 87 is prime sponsored by Denver area legislators, Senator Jessie Danielson (D-Jefferson) and Representatives Karen McCormick (D-Boulder) and Yadira Caraveo (D-Adams). Rep. Mary Young (D-Greeley) is a sponsor of the bill. NCLA's opposition to SB 87 is a high priority for the Board. The bill is scheduled for hearing next Wednesday, March 17. Agriculture industry groups are united in their opposition to SB 87, including the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Farm Bureau, Corn Growers, Wheat Growers among many more.

#### **SB21-130 [Local Authority for Business Personal Property Tax Exemption](#) – SUPPORT**

Alleviation of the business personal property tax on business has long been a priority for the NCLA. We've had incremental successes over the years and pleased to see the issue emerge as a priority for the Governor and legislative leaders. During his state of the state, the Governor noted his desire to eliminate the tax for a larger portion of small businesses across the state. SB 130 goes further to affirm a local government's authority to exempt 100% of their locally collected business personal property tax.

### **On the Federal Scene:**

**Congressman Neguse | Wildfire Summit**- Recapped the first annual Wildfire Summit that brought together scientists, fire fighters, forest management experts, state and local officials and impacted Coloradans for a wide-ranging discussion on wildfire preparedness, mitigation, resiliency, and recovery. The summit included Congressman Joe Neguse, Senators Michael Bennet & John Hickenlooper, and Governor Jared Polis. Panel sessions included Colorado experts in wildfire science, watershed impacts and flood mitigation. Click [here](#) to listen.

**Senator Michael Bennet | Climate Change Public Health Emergency** - This week, Senator Michael Bennet released a draft of legislation that will designate climate change as a long-term public health emergency to bolster efforts to address current and future impacts of climate change on public health. See the full article [here](#).