



## Agriculture, Tax Reform, Public Option

The Fight Continues to Keep Colorado Colorado...

The NCLA joined the Colorado Farm Bureau and other agriculture partners in months of dialogue with Senate sponsors about Senate Bill 21-87, the [Agriculture Worker's Bill of Rights](#) proposal that the NCLA opposes. This week the Senate debated the bill and adopted several amendments including [Amendment L.019](#) to provide an exemption of the short-handled hoe ban for certified organic farmers. Weld County Senators Barb Kirkmeyer and Senator Jerry Sonnenberg were vocal critics of the bill and its impact upon Weld County, the Northern Colorado region and the state. The bill moves to the House where it will await its next committee hearing. Greeley Representative Mary Young is a sponsor of the bill and the NCLA has been engaged with her about the status and concerns.

### HB 1312- [Insurance Premium Property Sales Severance Tax](#) – OPPOSE

NCLA took a position to oppose the voluminous tax “reform” bill that, among other provisions, causes concern for the oil and gas industry by “undoing” the BP Colorado Supreme Court Case regarding severance tax. Specifically, the bill's original Section 10 of the bill would disallow a return on investment deduction but arguably also disallow depreciation and amortization for mineral owners. This would put Colorado in a world apart from all other producing states and likely result in years of costly litigation for an industry still trying to manage the ramifications of SB19-181. The bill was debated on the House floor on Friday. During the hours long filibuster, several amendments were offered but unsuccessful by Republicans to strip section 11 (formerly Section 10) from the bill. The third reading of the bill will be heard on a Saturday session in the House.

### HB 1311- [Income Tax](#) - OPPOSE –

The sister bill to HB 1312 reforms Colorado's tax code through various changes to income tax policy, including taxable income additions and subtractions, income tax credits, corporate income tax policy, and the tax treatment of certain captive insurance companies. The bill includes a fiscal note that is expected to increase state revenue by \$13.0 million in FY 2021-22, \$63.2 million in FY 2022-23, and by \$104.9 million in FY 2023-24. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on the House floor is also expected during the Saturday session. NCLA has joined forces with several other businesses community organizations to Oppose the bill.

### HB 1232 – [Public Option](#) - OPPOSE

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee listened to several hours of testimony this week, and Northern Colorado Senators Barb Kirkmeyer and Joann Ginal were instrumental in flushing out concerns. The bill, that currently does not include carve outs for physicians, passed through the committee. The Senate Appropriations Committee referred the bill to the Senate floor for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, where it will be heard on Tuesday.

### SB 260- [Sustainability of the Transportation System](#) - AMEND –

The House Finance Committee will hear testimony on this bill Monday afternoon. NCLA Board members Carl Maxey and Johnny Olson (Move Colorado) with Sandra Hagen Solin will testify alongside partners Weld County Commissioner Scott James, Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC President/CEO Dirk Draper, and NCLA retained air quality attorney Chris Colsclosure. Representative Matt Gray, (D-Broomfield) the bill sponsor, is

considering NCLA requested amendments to assure North I-25 and essential corridor projects are not delayed by bill provisions. NCLA is also working with Colorado Counties Inc and Representative Gray to secure an amendment to assure local government's retains land use authority of transportation projects. Amendments will be offered in committee or the House floor.

### **Employee Traffic Reduction Program (ETriP) Update - AQCC Request for Rulemaking Hearing**

NCLA Members Joe Rowan and Ann Hutchison, and NCLA's Capitol Solutions team Sandra Hagen Solin and Tari King made public comments during the Air Quality Control Commission's request for rulemaking hearing for ETRP on Thursday. The rulemaking was granted and will be scheduled during the AQCC August hearing. NCLA will plan on declaring party status and [currently building a business community partnership](#) to have a strong voice during this rulemaking process collectively.

**Priority Legislation** -The NCLA Board took positions on several important bills this week.

### Economic Development

SB21-262 - [Special District Transparency](#) – SUPPORT – After a conversation of the potential impacts on metro districts, the Board voted to support this bill that increases the transparency of special and metro districts. A further conversation will be had with Sponsor Representative Hugh McKean – Loveland to gain further clarifications around issues of the inclusion of metro districts in the bill. The bill passed through the Senate this week and heads to the House next week.

### Workforce

HB21-1007- [State Apprenticeship Agency](#) – OPPOSE – With concern that this bill will impact apprenticeship programs with unions, the NCLA voted to oppose this bill. With current state requirements for apprenticeships and several successful programs in northern Colorado, this bill could hinder those existing programs.

### Healthcare

SB21-016 - [Protecting Preventive Health Care Coverage](#)- OPPOSE – This bill creates the opportunity to ensure preventative types of health care options can get paid for by insurance companies NCLA in the past has been opposed to mandated healthcare and additional requirements imposed on the insurance industry because of overall costs to individuals in the market. Additional concerns with this bill is the ability for minors to be treated by a medical provider without parental consent.

### Agriculture/Environment

SB21-248 - [Loan Program For Colorado Agriculture](#) – MONITOR – With reluctance, the NCLA Board voted not to take a position on this bipartisan bill that creates the Colorado agricultural future loan program. This revolving loan program attempts to fix a problem that does not need fixing. .

SB21-264 - [Adopt Programs Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Utilities](#) – MONITOR - The bill addresses reducing greenhouse gas emissions through changes to gas distribution utilities (GDU) regulations, including the filing of clean heat plans with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). The PUC and the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are required to initiate a number of rulemaking proceedings related to clean heat plans.

### Consent Agenda Items

[HB21-1077](#). Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning Tax Policy- SUPPORT

[HB21-1100](#). Electronic Filing Of Documents With Governmental Entities-SUPPORT

[HB21-1124](#). Expand Ability Conduct Business Electronically - SUPPORT

[SB21-265](#). Transfer From General Fund To State Highway Fund - SUPPORT

[HB21-1258](#). Rapid Mental Health Response For Colorado Youth -SUPPORT

**NCLA Tracking Report**

On a bi-weekly basis, the NCLA Board reviews and considers its position on pending legislation. See the [NCLA 2021 Legislative Tracking Report](#) to list the measures thus far introduced that the NCLA is monitoring and upon which the NCLA will or has taken a position.