



Interested Coloradans:

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the Independence Day celebrations last week. It is so important that we take time to remember the history of our nation and the sacrifices that were made to win our freedom.

Too often I think we take this freedom for granted. On July 4th there are always parades and picnics and festivities that help us remember, but the ideals we celebrated last week should be celebrated every week. We should all try to do a better job of showing our gratitude and appreciation for the system of democracy that makes our nation great.

Let us always be the patriots we are when we celebrate Independence Day!

LOTS OF LAWS

Many of the laws that were passed during the legislative session, for better or worse, became law this month.

One I am glad to see on the books is House Bill 1163 by Republican Rep. Frank McNulty, from nearby Highlands Ranch, and by Littleton Republican Sen. Mike Kopp. The bill extends in-state tuition privileges to armed services members, and their dependents, when they have been transferred to Colorado on a temporary basis.

Probably the worst of the bills on the list is House Bill 1288 by Democrat Rep. Judy Solano. The bill practically creates a new government agency funded entirely through increased fees on every citizen and business in Colorado. As a result of Solano's bill, you will now pay more to dispose of tire and trash. The goal of the bill, which is to fund recycling programs, is admirable. However, the fact that it was done as a backdoor tax increase instead of a vote of the people is appalling. This one new law alone will cost citizens at least \$4 million annually.

These are only two of the almost 100 bills that became law this month. If you would like a more complete list, please let me know and I would be happy to e-mail it.

TAXING 102

In my last newsletter, I talked about "Taxing 101" and how it looked like the stage for a future tax hike, or multiple hikes, by our new Democrat governor and our Democrat

legislature.

Now, on to lesson two. In preparation for a tax hike, in addition to building the perception of a crisis, it also appears to be important to separate yourself from blame for the problem. This is where “unintended consequences” can come in handy.

Take, for example, the property tax hike that the Democrats pushed through this last session. They claimed that they were fixing a ‘glitch’ in the law that had the “unintended consequence” of preventing your property taxes from skyrocketing. Folks, that’s not a glitch, it’s a protection; and by fixing it, they raised your property taxes.

Now, in their efforts to build a case for another tax hike, they are pointing to more “glitches,” and more “unintended consequences.”

The best example right now is the 6 percent spending limit on general fund revenue, sometimes referred to as the Arveschoug- Bird Limit. Democrats now claim that because of this law, the Referendum C money that you gave them two years ago, that exceeded their expectations by almost \$2 billion, cannot fix the problems they told you it would fix. The 6 percent limit has led to “unintended consequence” and now we must fix another “glitch” they say.

The 6 percent spending limit was adopted before voters approved the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights to keep the legislature from spending your money too quickly. While TABOR applies to all state spending, this limit applies to general fund spending for state departments and pretty much everything except capital construction and transportation. Without this protection, transportation funding would likely dry up, and to fix potholes and traffic jams it would take another, that’s right, tax increase.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you’re interested in mingling with the stars, Carmelo Anthony will be signing autographs in Parker on July 28th. For a photo op and a signature, stop by the Colorado Horse Park, located at 7522 South Pinery Drive, between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Also, please be sure to stop by the Republican booth at the Douglas County Fair and Rodeo and chat with other Douglas County Republicans and elected officials.

Fair Week August 3-12, 2007
Douglas County Fair Grounds
500 Fairgrounds Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80104

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