



Interested Coloradans:

This week marks the six year anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks on our country. The date will live forever in our memories as a day of tragedy and as a turning point in American history.

On Sept. 11, 2001 nearly 3,000 civilians were killed in the brutal terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We have traveled a long road since then and many more sacrifices have been made as we continue the fight that began that day.

We owe it to every victim that was killed on September 11, and to every brave soldier who has fought since then to defend our country against further attack, to always remember the lessons of 9/11.

TAXING TO THE LIMIT

We have been seeing a lot of tax talk in the papers lately.

The governor's property tax hike was back in the news this week after new revenue forecasts show that it is more than twice as egregious as originally expected. The tax hike, which many argue is unconstitutional, is now estimated to take an additional \$114 million from property owners in the first year. The original estimate was that it would take an additional \$48 million.

Shortly before that story broke, the *Denver Post* printed another article on the slew of new upcoming tax increase proposals that are headed to a ballot near you.

We are still months away from the legislative session but are already hearing talk of more taxes from the Blue Ribbon Health Care Commission, the governor's transportation panel, and from several Democrat leaders in the legislature.

There are also whisperings about changing, or even removing, the spending limit that works within TABOR to keep the state's operating costs in check. The limit currently allows the budget to grow at a rate of 6 % each year, more than twice the current rate of inflation. It is difficult to imagine that the government could need much more flexibility than that with your taxpayer dollars.

Hold on to your wallets, folks, it looks like the Democrats are starting to get comfortable in their new leadership role here in Colorado.

LABORIOUS SECRETS

Living in Colorado you probably don't hear much talk about labor unions. It's not exactly one of those pressing topics that start off conversations around the water cooler. If we're lucky, that won't ever change.

In states like New York, unions are a hot topic because strikes can shut the city down. We saw only a few years ago the kind of stronghold the unions there have. You probably still remember pictures of hundreds of thousands of people stranded in the streets when the unions decided to play hardball.

That is why it was concerning to find out last week that the governor has been involved in secret negotiations with unions. It's hard to picture that happening here in Colorado: A politician in cahoots with union bosses brings back images from old mobster movies.

The latest union push is for collective bargaining for state employees. Basically that means that union bosses would have their hand in the largest cookie jar we have here in Colorado. They could roll the entire state payroll (and it's a big one) right into their membership list and start collecting dues immediately.

And in return for all that taxpayer money? Well, union bosses could put their strong-arm tactics to use to inflate personnel spending in the budget, pushing even more onto the taxpayer.

CONNECTING WITH COLORADO

Operating a business and serving in the legislature doesn't always leave much open room in my schedule. This fall, though, I am committing to restart a project I began last year to reach out to citizens in some of the more rural areas of the state. By "more rural" I mean basically any town or city that is not Denver or Boulder. I figured in our current political climate those areas were pretty well covered already!

I am calling my tour the Colorado Connection and will be traveling around the state to hear from as many local town councils and citizens as I can between now and the beginning of the legislative session in January.

I'm starting in Buena Vista and in my own home district of Parker. I hope to see you at some point on my Colorado Connection tour.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

My niece, Lt. Jaime Thomas, has been serving our country in Ramadi, Iraq for the past year. We received news this week that her tour of duty in Iraq is over and she should be back home with her family within the next few weeks. We welcome her home with open arms and pray for the safety of her comrades who are still serving in Iraq.

Just a reminder that Constitution Day is coming up. Don't forget this Monday, Sept. 17, to celebrate our nation's founding document, which serves as such a solid foundation for our democracy.

Mike May
mike.may.house@state.co.us
303-866-5523