



Interested Coloradans:

Hopefully everyone was able to dedicate time last weekend to honor the veterans who have served our country over the years. We have one specific day each year to celebrate and honor our nation's veterans, but one day is not nearly enough.

Every day the freedom and greatness of our country is protected by the members of our armed forces. Every day our soldiers and their families make sacrifices to serve us all.

The United States owes an incalculable debt of gratitude to all of these men and women who are currently serving, to all who came before them, and to all who will come after them.

We should celebrate and honor our nation's veterans every single day.

### **REAL SOLUTIONS**

The legislative session is fast approaching and statehouse Republicans have been making some exciting announcements about our plans. We are tackling the issues that voters expressed concerns about and want to see addressed.

We are tired of waiting for more studies and panels to tell us that we need one monumental tax hike after another. We can make a real difference in people's lives without resorting to extreme, pie-in-the sky schemes that would leave taxpayers with a hefty tab.

We are focusing on real solutions on education, transportation, health care and other important issues. We have heard plenty of lofty promises over the last few years and it's time for real solutions and practical answers.

To see the proposals we've announced so far, please visit our new website, [www.coloradohousegop.com](http://www.coloradohousegop.com).

### **RITTER'S UNION PAYOFF**

If you read the newspapers, you probably saw that several powerful unions have banded together to form a super union aimed at taking over state government. You might think that sounds dramatic, but it's not far from the truth.

Just a few weeks ago, Democrat Gov. Bill Ritter signed an executive order late on a Friday afternoon allowing unions to be the exclusive representatives of state employees in everything of “mutual concern” between employees and their employers.

Gov. Ritter said that he had the right to make this change without any public debate because he views himself as the state’s CEO. He said that bringing in unions will improve communication and the relationship between employees and their supervisors.

I’m a businessman myself and the cover story just doesn’t fly. I cannot imagine any CEO in his or her right mind trying to solve any internal problem by bringing in third party union bosses.

Earlier this year, Gov. Ritter had been criticized, and even threatened, by unions for not sending enough goodies their way. This latest announcement came just in time to make peace among friends before the Democratic National Convention comes to town.

The policy change, in short, means \$50 a month times 30,000 state employees for union coffers. Now the various unions that have an interest in competing for this lucrative ‘business’ have joined together to split up the taxpayer-funded loot.

This smells as bad as it is: bad policy done in a bad way.

## **PROTECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY**

I am a firm believer in local control, but a situation with the Parker Town Council recently became so egregious that I felt obligated to become involved.

The Council is considering using its power of eminent domain to take the property of a business owner *outside the Town Limits of Parker*, in violation of a 2004 state law. The Council intends to challenge the law, but of course the property owner will have to defend himself with his own money while Parker uses the taxpayer’s money to challenge state law.

Several other lawmakers have joined me in writing a letter to the Council urging them to reconsider what we believe to be an abuse of power.

People have a right in this country to own property, and condemnation should not be used lightly. It is not a tool to get what you want just because you aren’t willing to pay a seller’s price.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

My Colorado Connection tour recently took me to Minturn. There was a packed room at the city council and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk about the upcoming session and to visit with folks from this mountain town. I was also able to spend some time in Lake City last month.

I am looking forward to my next few stops. I will speak to the Vail Chamber of Commerce as well as in Fort Collins to citizens and business owners from northern Colorado, including those from Greeley and Loveland.

The holiday season is just around the corner and the Christmas spirit has already begun to spread. If you're able to come to O'Brien Park in Downtown Parker on November 23<sup>rd</sup> you'll see the tree lighting at 5 p.m.

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