

Rates the Legislature

Sixty-ninth General Assembly, Second Session, 2014 Report
Prepared by the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

CONGRATULATIONS!

2014 Taxpayer Champions*

Senate Champion

Randy Baumgardner 100%

R - Hot Sulphur Springs

House Champions

Perry Buck 100%

R - Windsor

Justin Everett 100%

R - Littleton

Chris Holbert 100%

R - Parker

Janak Joshi 100%

R - Colorado Springs

Dan Nordberg 100%

R - Colorado Springs

Lori Saine 100%

R - Dacono

2014 Taxpayer Guardians*

Senate Guardians

Kent Lambert 96%

R - Colorado Springs

Vicki Marble 96%

R - Fort Collins

House Guardians

Stephen Humphrey 97%

R - Windsor

Libby Szabo 97%

R - Arvada

* Highest score in each house. (rounded)

Key Bill Summaries

Begin on Page 2

Year to Year?

Overall the Senate scored 39%, up from 36% last year. The House scored 38%, up from 35% last year. See the CUT Grid on pages 6-7.

Governor's Score...

See Page 4

COLORADO UNION OF TAXPAYERS RATES THE 2014 LEGISLATURE

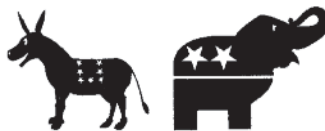
Sir Winston Churchill often said, "Common sense is not at all common."

During the last legislative session, the majority of Colorado legislators went out of their way to prove Churchill's observation accurate. Despite a persistent economic depression that is ravaging our state's and nation's economy, Colorado legislators, yet again, have authorized the highest level of expenditures in the history of the state! These politicians have engaged in the "game" of crony capitalism by subsidizing, directly or indirectly, various favored industries. These include: so-called alternative energy companies, low-cost housing, information industry, water fixture manufacturers, financial institutions, Obamacare, and so forth.

Despite being more intrusive in our state's economy, these legislators managed to find time to seriously undermine the integrity of state-wide and local elections. They did so by abolishing the residency requirements, mandating all mail ballots, removing the office of the Secretary of State from its supervisory role in the election process, removing the criminal liability for election fraud, and creating free-for-all electoral standards that rival those currently used in the Ukraine and Syria. While we are still dizzy from what legislators call "successes", we wish to point to another blatant failure. After long debates, legislative bargaining, and raised hopes, the Colorado legislature was unable to outlaw the widely hated red light cameras.

We cannot conclude without mentioning HCR14-1002. This amendment was designed to make it harder for the citizens of Colorado to place constitutional issues on the state-wide ballot. CUT, along with many other organizations, was successful in defeating this resolution. Most politicians claimed there are often too many measures on the ballot, and so, according to them, it could be confusing!

CUT has a better solution. In order to reduce the number of ballot measures, we should enact a blanket prohibition against Colorado legislators placing measures on the ballot unless they are required to collect thousands of signatures just like citizens. If legislators stop listening, the people should be able to act.



How Did the Parties Score?

Senate

Democrats	2%
Republicans	80%

House

Democrats	2%
Republicans	88%

Complete Listing and Scores Inside

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KEY BILL SUMMARIES

SB-005 Wage Protection Act

This bill "protects" employees from not being paid. PASSED. Senate 21/13/1, House 38/27. (Sen. Ulibarri/Rep. Singer) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill creates a straw man by establishing the premise; employers steal wages from employees by not paying them their "fair share". It has added 7 FTEs with a budget of \$655 million dollars to simply harass employers when a worker feels they are entitled to more money for just about any reason. It creates paid positions for former union leaders in the Colorado Capitol.

SB-029 Architectural Paint Stewardship Program

This bill establishes a statewide disposal program for architectural paint bought in less than 5 gallon containers, levies a tax on each purchase, and makes an appropriation therefore. PASSED. Senate 18/15/2, House 38/26/1. (Sen. Newell/Rep. Fischer) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** How a stand-alone HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials) disposal program for a non toxic substance long departed from an empty container can be justified is beyond our ken. Even a partially filled sun dried container is harmless as was reported in the 'Post'.

SB-103 Phase in High-efficiency Water Fixture Options

This bill bans the sale of unapproved toilet fixtures. PASSED. Senate 19/16, House 35/28/2. (Sen. Guzman/Rep. Fischer) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This is the ultimate in having government in your bathroom. It requires adherence to government standards of what is believed to be an allowed use of water (aka, a ration) then mandates the availability of such fixtures to consumers, builders, and businesses. Anyone who loves his low-flow toilet will support this bill to the fullest. Once in place, flushing three times rather than twice will be the new standard.

SB-124 School Turnaround Leaders Development Program.

This bill repeals the school leadership academy program and creates in its place the school turnaround leaders development program (program). The Department of Education (Department) administers the program based on rules adopted by the State Board of Education (State Board). PASSED. Senate 21/14, House 37/28. (Sen. Zenzinger/Rep. Fields) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The bill requires the Department of Education to issue a request for proposals to identify entities that seek to participate in the program as providers of high-quality, experienced turnaround

Senate Scores: Friend or Foe?

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing your best interest as a taxpayer? Here's what Members of Colorado's Senate earned on CUT's 2014 Ratings Scorecard:

Score	Senator	Pledge	Party	District	Home
100.00	Baumgardner, Randy	P	R	8	Hot Sulfur Spgs
96.43	Lambert, Kent	P	R	9	Colorado Springs
96.30	Marble, Vicki	P	R	23	Fort Collins
92.59	Lundberg, Kevin	P	R	15	Berthoud
92.59	Scheffel, Mark		R	4	Parker
89.29	Grantham, Kevin	P	R	2	Canyon City
88.89	Balmer, David	P	R	27	Centennial
88.00	Hill, Owen	P	R	10	Colorado Springs
86.67	Harvey, Ted	P	R	30	Highlands Ranch
81.48	Brophy, Greg	P	R	1	Wray
81.48	Cadman, Bill	P	R	12	Colorado Springs
81.48	Renfro, Scott	P	R	13	Greeley
66.67	Crowder, Larry		R	35	Alamosa
57.69	King, Steve		R	7	Grand Junction
55.56	Rivera, George		R	3	Pueblo
55.17	Herpin, Bernie		R	11	Colorado Springs
40.74	Roberts, Ellen		R	6	Durango
3.70	Carroll, Morgan		D	29	Aurora
3.70	Guzman, Lucia		D	34	Denver
3.70	Jahn, Cheri		D	20	Wheat Ridge
3.70	Tochtrup, Lois		D	24	Westminster
3.70	Zenzinger, Rachel		D	19	Arvada
3.57	Hodge, Mary		D	25	Brighton
3.45	Aguilar, Irene		D	32	Denver
3.45	Jones, Matt		D	17	Louisville
3.33	Ulibarri, Jessie		D	21	Commerce City
0.00	Heath, Rollie		D	18	Boulder
0.00	Johnson, Michael		D	33	Denver
0.00	Kefalas, John		D	14	Fort Collins
0.00	Kerr, Andy		D	22	Lakewood
0.00	Newell, Linda		D	26	Littleton
0.00	Nicholson, Jeanne		D	16	Black Hawk
0.00	Schwartz, Gail		D	5	Snowmass Village
0.00	Steadman, Pat		D	31	Denver
0.00	Todd, Nancy		D	28	Aurora

P = Taxpayer Pledge Signer

Overall Senate Score 39%

leadership development programs of demonstrated success for Colorado educators. The Department of Education will review and revise the list of identified providers to ensure that the providers of the turnaround leadership development programs are of the highest quality. The bill allows a provider to apply for a one time design grant (for up to 1/3 of the programs appropriation), from the program, to assist the provider in designing and developing the turnaround leadership development programs. School districts and charter schools may apply for grant money from the program to identify and recruit principles, teachers and administrators as aspiring school turnaround leaders and educate them as educators on how to properly

educate the students for a school turnaround effort for low-performing schools. The bill pays the providers fees, subsidizes the costs incurred for turnaround leaders to participate and reimburses the turnaround leaders for the costs they incur in completing the turnaround leadership course. In the private sector this would be the equivalent of a customer being forced to use a certain tradesman, the customer having to pay for the best trade school to train the tradesman and if the school does not have the program in place to train the tradesman the customer must pay for the school to develop the program to train the tradesman and the customer must pay the tradesman while they are being trained for the job that they were

Key Bill Summaries continue on page 3

originally hired for. For this reason CUT believes that this bill is a \$2 million plus total waste of taxpayer funds, again using the children as an excuse. CUT believes our legislators should review true school turnaround success stories such as has been demonstrated by the Platteville School District.

SB-133 Mandatory Licensure Private Investigators

This bill repeals the voluntary license with a mandatory license for private investigators. PASSED. Senate 18/17, House 35/27/3. (Sen. Newell/Rep. Melton) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The voluntary license program established under HB 11-1195 (beginning in 2012) was experiencing budgetary issues as a result of non-participation and increased fees (renewal of \$1,090). The solution was to mandate the license and charge a fee of \$330 + \$39 for a background check. The state anticipates a net increase in revenue or about \$75,000 at the cost of liberty for an estimated 400 small business people and does maintain and add 1 FTE position with the state. A win for crony-capitalism and little else.

SB-150 School Counselor Corps Grant Program.

This bill creates the school counselor corps grant program to provide funding to education providers. PASSED. Senate 22/13, House 38/26/1. (Sens. Todd and Zenzinger/Rep. Hamner) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill created the School Counselor Corps Grant Program in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to improve and increase counseling services to students in secondary schools. The goal of the program is to increase the availability of effective school-based counseling within the secondary schools to help increase the graduation rate within the state and increase the percentage of students who

House Scores: Friend or Foe?

Highest to Lowest - Who is representing your best interest as a taxpayer? Here's what Members of Colorado's House earned on CUT's 2014 Rating Scorecard:

Score	Representative	Pledge	Party	District	Home
100.00	Buck, Perry	P	R	49	Windsor
100.00	Everett, Justin	P	R	22	Littleton
100.00	Holbert, Chris	P	R	44	Parker
100.00	Joshi, Janak	P	R	16	Colorado Springs
100.00	Nordberg, Dan	P	R	14	Colorado Springs
100.00	Saine, Lori	P	R	63	Dacono
96.55	Humphrey, Stephen	P	R	48	Windsor
96.55	Szabo, Libby	P	R	27	Arvada
96.43	Lawrence, Polly	P	R	39	Littleton
93.33	Sonnenberg, Jerry		R	65	Sterling
93.10	Dore, Timothy	P	R	64	Elizabeth
91.67	Scott, Ray		R	55	Grand Junction
91.67	Waller, Mark		R	15	Colorado Springs
89.66	DeiGrosso, Brian		R	51	Loveland
89.66	Priola, Kevin	P	R	56	Henderson
89.66	Swalm, Spencer	P	R	37	Centennial
88.89	Navarro, Clarice		R	47	Pueblo
86.96	Landgraf, Lois	P	R	21	Fountain
86.21	Wilson, James		R	60	Salida
85.71	Coram, Don		R	58	Montrose
83.33	Rankin, Bob		R	57	Carbondale
82.76	Conti, Kathleen	P	R	38	Littleton
82.76	Gardner, Bob		R	20	Colorado Springs
79.31	Murray, Carole		R	45	Castle Rock
72.00	Stephens, Amy		R	19	Monument
62.96	McNulty, Frank		R	43	Highlands Ranch
58.62	Wright, Jared		R	54	Fruita
53.33	Gerou, Cheri		R	25	Evergreen
7.14	McLachlan, Mike		D	59	Durango
6.90	Garcia, Leroy		D	46	Pueblo
6.90	Lebsock, Steve		D	34	Thornton
6.90	Rosenthal, Paul		D	9	Denver
6.67	Hamner, Millie		D	61	Dillon
6.67	Pabon, Don		D	4	Denver
3.57	McCann, Elizabeth		D	8	Denver
3.57	Moreno, Dominick		D	32	Aurora
3.45	Foote, Mike		D	12	Lafayette
3.45	Hullinghorst, Dickey Lee		D	10	Niwot
3.45	Lee, Sanford"Pete"		D	18	Colorado Springs
3.45	Mitsch Bush, Diane		D	26	Steamboat Spring
3.45	Pettersen, Brittany		D	28	Lakewood
3.45	Vigil, Edward		D	62	Alamosa
3.33	May, Jenise		D	30	Aurora
3.33	Singer, Jonathan		D	11	Longmont
3.33	Young, David		D	50	Greeley
0.00	Becker, KC		D	13	Boulder
0.00	Buckner, John		D	40	Aurora
0.00	Court, Lois		D	6	Denver
0.00	Duran, Crisanta		D	5	Denver
0.00	Exum, Thomas		D	17	Colorado Springs
0.00	Ferrandino, Mark		D	2	Denver
0.00	Fields, Ronda		D	42	Aurora
0.00	Fischer, Randy		D	53	Fort Collins
0.00	Ginal, Joann		D	52	Fort Collins
0.00	Kagan, Daniel		D	3	Denver
0.00	Kraft-Tharp, Tracy		D	29	Arvada
0.00	Labuda, Jeanne		D	1	Denver
0.00	Melton, Jovan		D	41	Aurora
0.00	Peniston, Cherylin		D	35	Westminster
0.00	Primavera, Dianne		D	33	Broomfield
0.00	Ryden, Su		D	36	Aurora
0.00	Salazar, Joseph		D	31	Thornton
0.00	Schafer, Sue		D	24	Wheat Ridge
0.00	Tyler, Max		D	23	Lakewood
0.00	Williams, Angela		D	7	Denver

P = Taxpayers Pledge Signer

Overall House Score38%

A SPECIAL BREED

A special breed of legislators is demonstrating election year campaign pledges are not simply political rhetoric. In 1998, CUT established a ten-point Candidate/Legislator Pledge for legislative candidates. See Page 9. CUT's pledge signers are shown with a "P" on pages 2-3. CUT Champions and Guardians are almost always pledge signers. Be sure to congratulate them for their high scores and integrity in following through on their campaign promise to be fiscally conservative.

appropriately prepare for, apply, and continue into post-secondary education. This bill redefines "secondary school" to include any school with grades 6 – 12, requires grant recipients to use nationally established guidelines and standards when implementing a counseling program in schools or districts, adds criteria to be considered when evaluating grant applications and making awards, extends the grant funding period from three years to four years, limits to \$10.0 million the amount the State Board of Education (SBE) may award annually, and requires that the CDE provide support to secondary schools to train principals on the most effective use of the program. This bill creates the School Counselor Corps Advisory Board to review and evaluate grant applications and make recommendations to the CDE and the SBE for making awards from the program. The CDE must adopt guidelines for duties, membership, and responsibilities of the advisory board. This bill provides no performance expectations, only money for an unspecified outcome and provides no sunset provision. For this reason CUT does not support such legislation.

SB-158 Recall Elections, How Conducted & Align Article XXI

This bill purports to 'harmonize' Statutory recall election provisions with State Constitution provisions, shortens the period for the Governor to call Recall elections (from 45-74 days to 30-60 days), and aligns recall petition circulator requirements with those of initiative and referendum circulators. PASSED. Senate 19/16, House 37/28. (Sens. Steadman & Jones, Rep. Hullinghorst) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Passed in the aftermath of the Pueblo and Colorado Springs Recall Elections, this bill amends the State Constitution by statute to satisfy the drive for a universal 'all mail ballot' election and hobble future Recall attempts.

SB-172 Firefighter Heart Circulatory Malfunction Benefits

This bill requires a municipality, special district, fire authority, or county improvement district that employs one or more firefighters to maintain accident insurance, self-insure, or participate in a self-insurance pool or a multiple employer trust in order to provide benefits for firefighters who suffer from a heart and circulatory malfunction resulting from a work event. The bill sets the minimum and maximum benefits that must be paid to the firefighters. PASSED. Senate 23/12, House 39/26. (Sens. Tochtrop and Newell/Rep. Kraft-Tharp) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The bill mandates a \$4,000 lump sum payment if a medical examination reveals that a firefighter has a heart

circulatory malfunction, a \$1,500 per week payment up to 7 weeks if a firefighter made an emergency room visit and was hospitalized for up to 48 hours for a heart and circulatory malfunction or \$2,500 per week for 8 weeks if he cannot return to the same job duties as before, a payment up to \$25,000 for rehabilitative employment services relating to a heart or circulatory malfunction and a \$10,000 payment if a firefighter incurs cosmetic disfigurement from a heart and circulatory malfunction and if the covered heart and circulatory malfunction is terminal, the firefighter will receive a \$25,000 lump sum payment. Most firefighters throughout the state now receive a benefit package they have agreed to prior to accepting the position. Local fire districts, municipalities' special fire districts, or other fire authorities have budgets that include firefighter benefits. Unfunded mandates such as this will cause financial distress to many firefighting programs and their funding mechanisms around the state. Government mandates are seldom beneficial to the taxpayer.

SB-174 Prosecution Fellowship Program

This bill creates a Prosecution Fellowship Program in the Dept. of Higher Education to fund six one- year stipends for Colorado law school graduates to act as prosecutors in rural District Attorneys' offices, and creates a seven- member selection committee therefore. PASSED. Senate 25/9/1, House 48/14/3 (Sens. Heath & Johnston, Reps. McLachlan & Pabon). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The legislature should not be picking winners. In addition to creating a post graduate bonus for a favored six who may not even have passed the Bar Exam, this bill discriminates against Colorado residents and natives who may have had to attend schools out of state for valid reasons.

SB-181 Prohibit Automated Camera Vehicle ID

This bill would have prohibited the use of an automated vehicle identification system, including photo radar and red light cameras, by state and local governments for the purposes of enforcing traffic laws or issuing citations for the violation of traffic laws. PASSED. Senate 21/14, POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. House Appropriations Committee 8/5 (Sens. Renfroe & Guzman / Reps. Ferrandino & Humphrey). **CUT votes YES.** These systems amount to nothing more than robotic revenue generators for government by removing all human contact between law enforcement and citizens. That contact often leads to no ticket for a violation being issued as citizens and law enforcement agree that extenuating circumstances exist that lead to the apparent violations of basic traffic regulations. It would have restored the basic right of redress of government action.

SB-187 Colorado Commission Affordable Health Care

This bill establishes a 12-voting member commission consisting of various special interest groups involved in or near the health care field. In other words it creates and funds with \$400,000 of taxpayer dollars a bureaucracy to meddle in and "regulate" health care in Colorado. PASSED. Senate 23/12; House 42/20/3. (Sens. Aguilar&Roberts, Reps. Stephens&Schafer). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Amycare and funding thereof is rejected by the majority of Coloradans. Citizens prefer to have private health care which they and their doctor decide what is best for them. "Keep your hands off my health care"! Government meddling in health care has caused costs to skyrocket!

SB-197 Transportation Enterprise Transparency Act

This bill would have created another board filled with political appointees and empowered with the ability to tax (by way of fees) citizens for the creation of expensive public/private transportation projects. Passed Senate 25/10, House 35/29/1 (Sens. Jones & Herpin/Reps. Foote and Kraft-Tharp), Governor VETOED. **CUT votes NO.** By their very nature,

Key Bill Summaries continue on page 8



Governor John Hickenlooper

How did the Governor Rate?

4%

Governor Hickenlooper continues his disdain for Colorado taxpayers with yet another F (failing grade). His continued lack of concern for high taxes, onerous regulations, and attacks on second amendment rights is reason enough to send him packing in November. This session we had more of the same anti-business regulations, useless and expensive green fantasies, expansion of entitlements, and lawmakers picking winners and losers in the marketplace. Governor Hickenlooper's infatuation with Obama is bad for Colorado, business, and taxpayers. Now is the time for a change in leadership.

2014 Taxpayer Champions



**Senate Champion
Randy Baumgardner**
SD8, Hot Sulphur Springs



**House Champion
Perry Buck**
HD49, Windsor



**House Champion
Justin Everett**
HD22, Littleton



**House Champion
Chris Holbert**
HD44, Parker



**House Champion
Janak Joshi**
HD16, Colorado Springs



**House Champion
Dan Nordberg**
HD14, Colorado Springs



**House Champion
Lori Saine**
HD63, Dacona

2014 Taxpayer Guardians



**Senate Guardian
Kent Lambert**
SD9, Colorado Springs



**Senate Guardian
Vicki Marble**
SD23, Fort Collins



**House Guardian
Stephen Humphrey**
HD48, Windsor



**House Guardian
Libby Szabo**
HD27, Arvada



CUT RATES COLORADO'S 2014 LEGISLATURE



Legend: "+" Reflects a CUT Positive Vote "-" Indicates a Vote Against CUT philosophy "E" Excused "A" Absent " " Not Voted On

SENATORS	Bill Number:										CUT'S STAND:										POSITIVE													
	5	29	103	124	133	150	158	172	174	181	187	197	202	1011	1017	1028	1085	1093	1101	1124	1164	1269	1300	1317	1326	1336	1343	1356	1369	1002	CUT	VOTES	CAST	SCORE
Aguilar, Irene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	29	3.45
Balmer, David	R	27	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	24	27	88.89		
Baumgardner, Randy	E	E	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	23	23	100.00			
Brophy, Greg	R	1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	22	27	81.48			
Cadman, Bill	R	12	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	22	27	81.48			
Carroll, Morgan	D	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	27	3.70			
Crowder, Larry	R	35	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	18	27	66.67			
Grantham, Kevin	R	2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25	28	89.29				
Guzman, Lucia	D	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	27	3.70				
Harvey, Ted	R	30	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	26	30	86.67				
Heath, Rolie	D	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27	0.00				
Herpin, Bernie	R	11	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	16	29	55.17				
Hill, Owen	R	10	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	22	25	88.00				
Hodge, Mary	D	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	28	3.57				
Jahn, Cheri	D	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	27	3.70				
Johnson, Michael	D	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27	0.00				
Jones, Matt	D	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	29	3.45				
Kefalas, John	D	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27	0.00				
Kerr, Andy	D	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27	0.00				
King, Steve	R	7	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	15	26	57.69				
Lambert, Kent	R	9	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	27	28	96.43				
Lundberg, Kevin	R	15	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25	27	92.59				
Marble, Vicki	R	23	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	26	27	96.30				
Newell, Linda	D	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27	0.00					
Nicholson, Jeanne	D	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27	0.00					
Renfro, Scott	R	13	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	22	27	81.48				
Rivera, George	R	3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	15	27	55.56				
Roberts, Ellen	R	6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	11	27	40.74				
Scheffel, Mark	R	4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25	27	92.59				
Schwartz, Gail	D	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	27	0.00					
Steadman, Pat	D	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	28	0.00					
Tochtrop, Lois	D	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	27	3.70					
Todd, Nancy	D	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	28	0.00					
Ulibarri, Jessie	D	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	3.33					
Zenzinger, Rachel	D	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	27	3.70					

Total	13	15	16	14	17	13	16	12	9	21	12	10	17	15	15	2	15	16	4	16	17	7	15	8	8	10	15	5	5	373	955	39.06	
Gov. Hickenlooper	D	Denver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	26	3.85

REPRESENTATIVES	Bill Number:										CUT'S STAND:										POSITIVE												
	5	29	103	124	133	150	158	172	174	181	187	197	202	1011	1017	1028	1085	1093	1101	1124	1164	1269	1300	1317	1326	1336	1343	1356	1369	1002	CUT	VOTES	CAST
Becker, KC	D	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	29	0.00		
Buck, Perry	R	49	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	29	29	100.00		
Buckner, John	D	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	29	0.00			
Conti, Kathleen	R	38	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	24	29	82.76			
Coram, Don	R	58	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	24	28	85.71			
Court, Lois	D	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	24	0.00			

public/private partnerships present the opportunity for a few politically connected individuals to enjoy a financial windfall at the expense of ordinary citizens. Furthermore, when non-elected, politically appointed individuals make all the important decisions and provide the oversight for the selected projects, the taxpayer is left with no voice, no accountability, and little representation in these massively expensive transportation projects.

SB-202 Funding For Energy Efficiency in Schools

This bill pretends to save money by having taxpayers subsidize loans to local governments for the grand notion of generating the energy they use from certain sources rather than others. PASSED. Senate 18/17, House 40/25 (Sen. Kerr/Rep. Tyler), Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Among other things, the bill will micromanage local school district budgets by steering money into renewable energy projects through attractive, taxpayer-subsidized financing. Here again we see the taxpayer being forced to subsidize the "green" energy industry in the face of massive corruption and bankruptcies and at the altar of political correctness. CUT wonders; if a school district in a coal mining area chose to support its local economy by purchasing coal-generated electricity would the state government even consider supporting that effort?

HB-1011 Advanced Industry Economic Development Funding

This bill revises the structure for the funding of so called Advanced Industry Economic Development Programs, transfers \$5M into its fund for each year 2015 & 2016, raises the 'overhead' limit to 8 %, and changes fiscal year effective dates. PASSED. House 38/27, Senate 19/15/1. (Reps. Young & Gerou, Sen. Heath) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** \$5M/year is not small change and should not go to someone's favored enterprises while there are more critical areas which need to be funded. Remember the 'Brabazon' aircraft development project.

HB-1017 Expand Availability of Affordable Housing

This bill enacts measures promising to expand the availability of affordable housing in the State, modifies statutes re the Investment Trust Fund and the Housing Development Grant Fund for loans, lifts grant caps for natural disaster victims, and reinstates tax credits of \$40Million for certain property owners. PASSED. House 37/28, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Duran, Sen. Ulibarri). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** While depriving our independent contractors of potential rehabilitation and redevelopment business by limiting work to non-profits or housing

authorities, this bill also provides a temptation for grantors to reward special interest groups with tax credits, and may end up benefiting middle income projects at the expense of low ones.

HB-1028 Oppose Federal Special Use Permit Water Rights

This bill prohibits the United States government from takings of a water right for allowing the owner use of federal lands. POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. House 39/24/2; Senate State Affairs 3/2. (Rep. Sonnenberg, Sen. Roberts). **CUT votes YES.** Blackmail/takings by United States government is abhorrent.

HB-1085 Adult Education and Literacy Programs

This bill creates an adult education and literacy grants program which will provide \$970K of state funding for education and literacy to 10 various local education providers for those who participate in workforce development programs, and makes an appropriation therefore. PASSED. House 36/26/3, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Fields, Sen. Zenzinger). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** While sympathetic to the plight of the illiterate, we must ask why they failed to learn in Colorado or foreign schools and why the taxpayer should foot the bill for yet more basic education of those aged 19 to 90.

HB-1093 Establish Creative District Community Loan Fund

This bill creates the Creative District Community Loan Fund to fund loans or loan guarantees of up to \$250,000 per project for the development and construction of commercial and mixed-use real estate projects, community facilities, and infrastructure in state-certified creative districts. Loans from the fund must be accompanied by matching funds of at least three times the amount of the loan, including in-kind contributions of property. State funding is \$100,000 per year with money being retained from year to year in the account if not spent. PASSED House 41/21/3, Senate 19/16. (Rep. Duran/Sen. Newell). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill forces taxpayers to fund projects often in cities in which they do not reside and from which they derive no benefit. This bill also demonstrates preferential treatment by the state government for some commercial enterprises over others. The state should not be involved in either local projects or in showing favoritism for one industry or commercial interest over others.

HB-1101 Community Solar Garden Business Personal Property Tax Exemption

Today in Colorado, there are 37 community
Key Bill Summaries continue on page 9



Legislative Phone Numbers Call Your Colorado Legislators

Representatives

Democrats: (303) 866-2904
Republicans: (303) 866-5523

Senators

Democrats: (303) 866-2316
Republicans: (303) 866-4866

HOW OUR RATING IS DONE

Each state legislator is rated on his or her tax, spending, or government intrusion votes. For a bill to be chosen, it must relate to the CUT pledge (see page 9) mission, it must have a split vote, with votes both for and against the bill. The bill must have a full vote in one chamber and at least a committee vote or full vote in the second chamber. Each legislator's percentage is calculated by the number of votes cast. Year-to-year comparisons indicate that CUT is accurately measuring whether a legislator favors lower taxes and less government, is a friend of the taxpayer, or continues with higher spending and creating more government intrusion in our lives.

CUT Board of Directors ruled that Taxpayer Champions must score 75% or better to be identified as a Taxpayer Champion.

solar gardens. During the sunny period of the day, they manage to generate some electricity. Unable to compete with more efficient, conventional sources of electricity, these solar gardens are searching high and low for various governmental hand-outs. PASSED. House 38/25/2, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Tyler/Sen. Schwartz). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This bill specifies: "for property tax years 2015 through 2020, the share of electricity generated by a CSG and attributed to residential or governmental subscribers, or subscribers that are property tax-exempt religious or charitable organizations, is exempt from property tax. Thus, business personal property tax for a CSG would be levied only on the share of electricity generating capacity used by businesses." The government employee, who wrote the above explanation of this bill, must have attended a school, which received its energy from a CSG. Obviously, there was not enough electricity; therefore, he or she must have been forced to study English in the dark.

HB-1124 In-State Tuition Classifications for American Indians from Other States

The bill requires a state-supported institution of higher education to classify as an in-state student

for tuition purposes an out-of-state student who is a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe with historical ties to Colorado, as designated by the Colorado commission on Indian Affairs. Such students would receive in-state tuition and be eligible for state financial aid and the college opportunity fund stipend. PASSED House 39/25/1, POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Senate Appropriations. 4/3. (Rep. Salazar, Sen. Tochtrop). **CUT votes NO.** This bill reduces the out-of-state tuition to our State schools by \$5.3M and causes an increase in state funding of at least \$668,000 per year. The taxpayers of Colorado pay for state college assistance for their own residents. As these students already have in-state tuition in their own state of residence, there is no reason for us to subsidize them at the expense of our own residents.

HB-1164 Nonpartisan Elections not Coordinated by a County Clerk

This bill creates a 'Colorado Local Government Election Code' for Special Districts, aligns residency requirements to those of HB13-1303 by shortening in-state residency from 30 to 22 days and abolishes any residency period within a municipal precinct, special district, or school district, allows Special Districts to conduct mail-

in ballot elections, and repeals the legal requirement for coordinated elections. PASSED. House 36/27/2, Senate 18/16/1. (Rep. Hulinghorst, Sen. Ulibarri) Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** By "harmonizing" with HB13-1303 (a.k.a. the Election Fraud Act of 2013) and attempting to correct some of its unconstitutional mandates, this bill (the Election Fraud Act of 2014) brings the concept of the mob of 'roving voters' down to the local level. Further the new so-called code has such nebulous language therein that a local entity can rewrite its election laws at any time, even when the votes are being counted.

HB-1269 Marketplace Fairness and Business Protection

This bill codifies the types of business activities and practices that create a "physical presence" for out of state corporations and retailers thus making their sales in Colorado taxable. This is similar to the 2010 bill, now in the courts, which caused Amazon to kill its affiliate business in Colorado. This bill also creates a presumption that an out-of-state retailer has substantial nexus and therefore must collect and remit state sales taxes. PASSED. House 36/26/3, Senate 18/17(Reps. Court & Williams, Sen. Johnston).

Key Bill Summaries continue on page 10

CANDIDATE / LEGISLATOR PLEDGE

I _____, candidate / legislator for _____
do hereby pledge to the Citizens of Colorado:

TABOR

to honor and uphold the spirit as well as the letter of TABOR.

New Taxes

to oppose any new net tax increase.

Spending Limit

to limit government spending to growth of Colorado population and inflation.

Tax Surplus

to support the refund of surplus taxes to the citizens of Colorado proportional to their contributions.

Prioritize Spending

to support prioritizing the budget by shifting spending from lower valued programs to higher priorities, and not fund spending with new taxes.

Education

to support educational alternatives such as vouchers to create competition and improve student results at a lower cost.

Privatize

to support privatization of government departments and functions to make them more efficient and less expensive.

Property Rights

to defend property rights from "takings" by government or by regulation.

Payroll Deductions

to oppose payroll deductions that are used for political purposes.

Petition Rights

to support the citizen's right to petition with rules as non-restrictive as possible.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Under current law, the Department of Revenue must demonstrate that a retailer has physical presence within the state and is required to collect and remit sales taxes. This bill requires the retailer to prove that he does not have physical presence for sales tax purposes. This provision would lead state officials to harass smaller companies that won't have the resources to fight back rather than go after giant corporations whose legal departments can bat away such a presumption. In other words, this bill sets up the Department of Revenue as the witch hunter to small business as well as this being a potential \$67M per year money grab by the state.

HB-1300 General Fund Transfer to CO State Fair Authority Cash Fund

The bill transfers \$300,000 taxpayer funds to the Colorado State Fair Authority. PASSED. House 47/17/1; Senate 28/7. (Reps. Garcia&Duran, Sen. Steadman). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The Colorado State Fair Foundation is charged with raising funds on behalf of the Colorado State Fair Authority. In addition, the Colorado State Fair Authority should have a prudent business plan which when incorporating raised funds, gate fees, entrance fee, etc. would eliminate the need for taxpayer funds. That is, the Colorado State Fair should operate without taxpayer funds. It should sustain itself.

HB-1317 Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Changes

This bill makes changes to the CCCAP (Colorado Child Care Assistance Program) by increasing those eligible, reducing the amount of co-payments, increasing provider rates, increasing access to quality care, and providing opt-out provisions for counties (with strings attached), and makes an appropriation therefore. PASSED. House 39/23/3, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Duran, Sens. Nicholson & Kefalas). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** This is but yet another attempt to put more children under state control; and, while there are burdensome op-out provisions, force a top down regimentation of our counties with respect to hiring practices and costs, with state costs increasing from \$4.8 to \$9.8 million annually.

HB-1326 Tax Incentives for Alternative Fuel Trucks

This bill "creates a new income tax credit and reduces the number of vehicles eligible to claim existing sales and use tax exemption." This income tax credit applies only to so-called low-emission and alternative-fuel vehicles. The bill uses a complex system of categories in order to decide who gets what in this government largess. PASSED. House 48/15/2, Senate 27/8.

(Reps. Primavera and Scott / Sen. Hodge). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The sponsors of the bill admit there is "the higher up-front cost of medium and heavy duty alternative fuel vehicles compared with their traditional fuel counterparts". They also think the "specific ownership tax"... "creates a disincentive for the purchase of such vehicles"; therefore, these legislators concluded they should step-in and decide the winners as well as the losers in the market place.

HB-1336 2014-15 Long Appropriations (Budget)

The 2014-15 budget jumped \$1.8 BILLION an increase of 7.8% over previous year to a total of \$24.6 BILLION. This relates to about \$18,665 burden per household. Would that the private sector, households, and individuals could hope for such an increase in revenues/spending in these sad economic times. PASSED. House 38/26/1, Senate 26/8/1. (Rep. Duran/Sen. Steadman). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** Taking money from one group, giving to another makes up 40+ percent of the \$24.6 BILLION budget. Core functions of government such as public safety, infrastructure, and education, take a back seat to bludgeoning welfare, Medicaid, and government bureaucracy. While we do consider education a core function of government, the education budget increased \$545.4 MILLION, 11.6% over previous year. This is outrageous considering the outcomes being delivered and the offensive Common Core being shoved down the public's throat. Government spending is the problem. Suggest getting back to what deliverables from the government to the people should be with results based measurements and put a stop to easy handouts to able-bodied folk. Other people's money is so easy to spend!

HB-1343 Firefighter Peace Office PTSD Work Comp Coverage

This bill creates the 21 member 'Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Task Force' to research work related PTSD's and make recommendations for policies etc for Colorado public employers. PASSED. House 42/23, Senate 25/10. (Reps. Singer & Wright, Sen. Tochtrop). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** At a time when the scandal of large numbers of veterans raiding the US Treasury for easily gained benefits with false claims of PTSD, the State does not need to entertain visions of largess for all levels of State employees who may claim an ill-defined, and perhaps improvable, condition. The reported results, if passed, will increase expenditures for five State agencies as well as local entities.

HB-1356 Strengthen the Penalty Authority Of Oil & Gas Commission

This draconian bill "increases the penalties for

violations of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act. The maximum daily fine is increased from \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each act of violation per day". "The \$10,000 maximum cap on violations that do not result in a significant adverse impact is repealed." PASSED. House 40/22/3, Senate 20/15. (Rep. Foote/Sen. Jones). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** The luddites, among the Colorado legislators, have but one goal – to destroy the traditional sources of energy in the absurd hope that it will bring about some green utopia. The more likely result will be the loss of thousands of jobs, higher cost of energy, wide spread poverty, and ultimately some form of fascism

HB-1369 Durable Medical Equipment Supplier License

This bill requires the "durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers that bill Medicare to be licensed with the Secretary of State"... "meet various requirements, including having one or more physical locations within the state or within 50 miles of the state border in a neighboring state". The "suppliers must pay an annual fee". The amount of this fee will ultimately be set by "the Secretary of State based on the number of DME suppliers seeking licensure". PASSED. House 48/17, Senate 30/5. (Rep. Young/Sens. Crowder& Jahn). Governor SIGNED. **CUT votes NO.** In addition to another layer of bureaucratic regulation and fees, it would seem the ground is being prepared for the government to create barriers to entry into DME business. Thus, allowing the state government to create a local oligopoly among the companies supplying DME, lowering the level of competition, keeping the prices/taxes high, and potentially rewarding political cronies with lucrative business opportunities.

HCR-1002 Constitutional Initiative Petition Signatures

This bill would have required submission to voters of an Amendment to the Colorado Constitution mandating citizen initiatives to obtain a certain minimum number valid voter signatures in each Congressional District, to double the number of signatures required for a Constitutional Amendment, and to exempt attempts to revoke previously enacted Amendments from the previous requirement. PASSED. House 47-18, POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. Senate State Affairs 5/0. **CUT votes NO.** This is but the latest attempt to cripple the citizens' 'Right to Petition their Government' while accruing more power to the Legislature. It would also have been a back door vehicle to ease the repeal of previously enacted portions of the Constitution deemed onerous by the legislators (i.e. TABOR = the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights).



RAISE YOUR VOICE! NOT YOUR TAXES. JOIN CUT TODAY!

Since 1976 CUT's awareness efforts have saved Colorado taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Yet we have much to do. Please help by supporting CUT today. CUT is saving you money by reducing your taxes.

- Yes, I want to support CUT. \$20 Annual Dues/6 years \$100
- I want to do more! Here is my additional donation of \$ _____
- "Taxes are too high already and I want to protect against further tax growth. Here is my contribution of \$ _____ " Please keep me informed

Total Donation Amount \$ _____

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Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____ (h) _____ (w) _____ (f) _____

E-mail address: _____

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**How Coloradoans in
US CONGRESS Scored***

Senate Results

(D) Bennet, M	F	15%
(D) Udall, M	F	13%

State Scoring Average 14%

House Results

(R) Coffman	B	78%
(D) DeGette, D	F	18%
(R) Gardner, C	B+	82%
(R) Lamborn, D	A	85%
(D) Perlmutter, E	D	21%
(D) Polis, J	D	23%
(R) Tipton, S	B	76%

State Scoring Average 55%

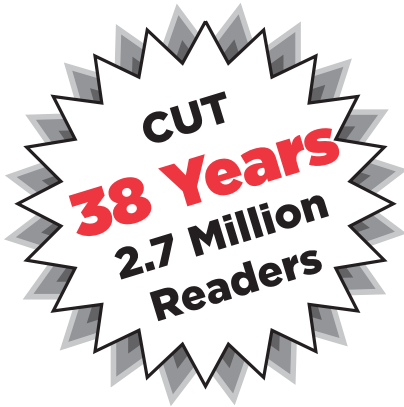


** Source: National Taxpayers Union, Ratings for the 2nd Session of the 112th Congress*

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2014 CUT Ratings

from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers

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From CUT President Gregory Golyansky



President's Message

The recently completed 2014 legislative session was one of most divisive in memory. One party control, rush to legislate, party-line votes – the whole political atmosphere is beginning to resemble Germany of the 1930's. The Colorado Union of Taxpayers, in its mission to protect the hard-working Colorado taxpayers from govern-

ment bureaucrats and their boundless avarice, has attempted to remind legislators that they must exercise political power for the benefit of the greatest number of citizens of our state. In a republic, such is the only legitimate exercise of political power. It would seem; however, that the majority of current legislators are unwilling to accept this principle.

The following are a few particularly notorious examples of government overreach:

- HB14-1011: government will be picking and choosing the winners and losers in the so called "advanced Industries"
 - HB14-1101: personal property tax exemption for a small interest group identified as the "community solar gardens"
 - HB14-1159: more tax exemptions for green utopia, this time for "components used in biogas production systems"
 - HB14-1356: punishing the oil and gas industries
 - SB14-187: expanding Obamacare in Colorado
- and these are only a tip of the iceberg. In addition, CUT has become involved in the law suit against the West Metro Fire Protection District. During the recent district election, there was overwhelming evidence constitutionally-mandated ballot secrecy was violated. We are asking the court to void this election, because we believe if government officials

are able to see how people vote, then factor of voter intimidation will become unavoidable and will influence outcome of future elections. CUT is also looking with increasing alarm at the misguided efforts by the coalition of modern day Luddites to outlaw the process known as hydraulic fracturing a.k.a. fracking, which allows us to obtain natural gas, this still reasonably affordable form of energy. The followers of the global warming cult either do not understand or do not care that they are destroying the ability to produce safe and affordable energy. In combination with the federal government's policy of outlawing coal and making oil expensive, the ultimate consequence of such Pol Pot style experiments could be spiraling energy cost, higher taxes, a catastrophic economic collapse, mass unemployment, cold, hunger, and wide spread homelessness.

CUT urges all rational and patriotic citizens to reject these absurd prohibitions. Support the energy industry as though your life depends on it – because it does!