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 1536 Wynkoop, Suite 4-C
 Denver, CO 80202
www.coloradoconservationvoters.org

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The Colorado Conservation Voters

Colorado Conservation Voters

CCV is the independent political voice of Colorado's environmental community. Our mission is to create a bi-partisan conservation majority in the Colorado legislature. CCV endorses pro-environment candidates and works to hold legislators accountable for protecting Colorado's water, air, and land. CCV advocates for conservation policies in the state legislature and helps inform the public about state legislative activity by producing the annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard and Governor's Conservation Report Card. Online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org

Colorado Conservation Voters Education Fund

The CCV Education Fund provides education and training to increase the effective participation of environmentalists in the political arena and to educate legislators, the media and the public about environmental issues. Online at www.ccvef.org.

"There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country."

- Theodore Roosevelt
 August 6, 1912

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Colorado Conservation Voters

The non-partisan political voice of Colorado's environmental community

Colorado Conservation Voters Voice

Spring 2007

2007 General Assembly a Huge Success

With bi-partisan conservation majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly and an environmental champion in the Governor's office, landmark conservation measures passed this year that will make a difference in Colorado for years to come. In fact, the 2007 session goes down as the most pro-environment session in Colorado history. Our success is due in large part to the fact that 47 out of 50 pro-environment legislators won at the polls last November.

Last year, Colorado Conservation Voters worked with conservation leaders from across the state to create a priority legislative agenda. With the 2007 session adjourned, we can celebrate the passage of major legislation addressing all three of the community's priorities.

Renewable Energy

The conservation community's top priority in 2007 was the passage of a Renewable Energy Standard requiring that 20% of our electricity come from renewable sources. Colorado voters laid the groundwork for this policy in 2004 with the passage of Amendment 37 - a 10% renewable energy standard. When the major utilities announced they would meet the 10% goal eight years ahead of schedule, conservationists and industry leaders decided to raise the bar. With the passage of HB 1281, Colorado has set one of the most aggressive goals for clean power in the country. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Jack Pommer, Rep. Rob Witwer, and Sen. Gail Schwartz, raises the standard to 20% by 2020.

Clean Water

Another priority for Colorado's conservation community in 2007 was the protection of our water quality

by granting water courts new authority and increasing funding for clean water enforcement. Both of these bills have been long standing goals, and 2007 was the year we succeeded. For seven years running lawmakers such as

Rep. Buffie McFadyen and former Speaker Lola Spradley worked tirelessly to pass legislation that would allow water courts to consider the impact of large water transfers on our water quality. Every year for seven years, this common-sense legislation was blocked. With this year's resounding passage of HB 1132, the legislature has finally given the courts this power. HB 1132 was sponsored by Rep. McFadyen and Sen. Schwartz.

Balanced Oil and Gas Development

The third priority for the conservation community was to ensure that public health and wildlife impacts are taken into consideration when planning oil and gas development. Too often, the impacts to communities and wildlife habitat have not been given fair hearing when planning oil and gas development. The conservation community teamed up with several sportsmen organizations to pass HB 1298 sponsored by Rep. Dan Gibbs and Sen. Lois Tochtrop. This bill creates a new partnership between the Division of Wildlife and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission when energy development occurs in critical wildlife habitat. With HB 1341, Gov. Ritter delivered on a campaign promise to create a Commission that reflects the interests of sportsmen, conservationists, and community leaders as well as those of the oil and gas industry. This bill was sponsored by Rep. Kathleen Curry and Sen. Jim Isgar.

More victories will be outlined in the upcoming Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard.



Welcome to the Colorado Conservation Voters Voice. In this issue, I'd like to give thanks to some of the many people who helped to make the 2007 General Assembly the greatest session for the environment in Colorado's history.

I thank Representative Jack Pommer, Representative Rob Witwer and Representative Buffie McFadyen for working together for renewable energy.

I thank Representative Kathleen Curry, Representative Ellen Roberts, Senate President Joan Fitz-Gerald, and Senator Josh Penry for their hard work to bring reform to the oil and gas industry.

I thank Representative Al White for persevering on legislation for the third year running that allows counties to create funding for open spaces.

I thank Representative Dan Gibbs for his stewardship of wildlife habitat as co-chair of the Sportsmen's Caucus.

I thank Senator Gail Schwartz for, in her freshman year, sponsoring bold policy to protect water quality and double the state's renewable energy standard.

I thank Governor Bill Ritter for listening to the people of Colorado, using his executive power to protect the conservation values we share, and for appointing great leaders such as Department of Natural Resources Director Harris Sherman and Public Health and Environment Director Jim Martin to carry out his vision.

But mostly, I'd like to thank you for your support of Colorado Conservation Voters as we worked to keep the public engaged in conservation issues, for contacting your legislator when important issues were debated, and for voting your conservation values at the ballot box!



2007 Legislative Session by the Numbers

- 3** - The number of issues made legislative priorities by the conservation community in 2007.
- 3** - The number of victories on conservation priorities.
- 23** - The number of pro-conservation bills passed by the legislature this session.
- 23** - The number of conservation bills expected to be signed by Gov. Ritter.
- 20** - Percentage of Colorado's electricity that will be produced by renewable resources by the year 2020. This is a doubling of the standard passed by voters in 2004.
- 4,100** - Estimated number of jobs that will be created by the increase in the renewable energy standard.
- 11** - Estimated percentage reduction of global warming emissions due to the passage of the renewable energy standard as compared to a "business as usual" scenario.
- 33 to 0** - The final vote in the Senate to approve HB 1132, granting water courts the authority to consider water quality issues when ruling. Similar legislation was defeated 17-18 last year.
- 15,400,000,000** - The cubic feet of natural gas that will be saved every year by 2020 thanks to efficiency measures created by HB 1037. This is equivalent to the natural gas usage of 195,000 households.
- 1,500,000,000** - kWh of electricity saved per year by 2020 by HB 1037. This equals the current electricity use of 165,000 households.
- \$1,200,000,000** - Estimated net economic benefits for households and businesses in Colorado as a result of energy efficiency measures adopted through HB 1037.
- 1,611** - Number of letters written by members of the Colorado Action Network to their legislators voicing their opinions about upcoming environmental legislation.
- 48** - The number of CCV endorsed candidates who won in the 2006 elections.
- 51** - The number of candidates CCV endorsed in 2006.
- 100** - The highest possible score on the Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard. Look for your copy soon!



Conservation News

Cooking Out for Conservation

Summer is here, and with the warm weather comes many opportunities to support pro-conservation candidates, spend time with neighbors and learn more about the work of Colorado Conservation Voters. With special events planned in Aspen, Boulder, Denver, and Fort Collins this summer, the chances are good that we'll be in your neck of the woods. If your town is not on the list, let us know and we'll be happy to help you host an event of your own! Be on the lookout for invitations in the coming weeks.

2007 Scorecard Coming Soon

With the most successful legislative session in Colorado history now drawn to a close, CCV is hard at work preparing the annual Conservation Scorecard. As a supporter of CCV, you'll be one of the first to receive this important summary of the 2007 Session. Make sure to let your legislators know how you feel about their scores!

A full archive of past Scorecards and Governor's Report Cards is available on the CCV website.

CCV Launching Membership Program

Colorado Conservation Voters is launching its first ever membership campaign this summer. By becoming a member of CCV, you will fund the important environmental accountability work CCV does and help support pro-environment candidates through the CCV Action Fund Small Donor Committee. The Small Donor Committee provides direct support to



the pro-conservation candidates in the most important races across the state.

CCV Members will be invited to attend an Annual Members Meeting where you will have an opportunity to meet others who care about protecting Colorado's environment, learn more about the work of CCV and get a behind the scenes look at issues being discussed in the legislature. Members will receive a special "Sneak Peek" mailing of the Conservation Scorecard. Members at the Sustainer Level of \$300 will also automatically receive seating at CCV's Fall Luncheon.

More information about the Membership Program will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

CAN Connects Voters and Legislators

Colorado Conservation Voters Education Fund was proud to once again play a pivotal role in the management of the Colorado Action Network. The CAN is the premier online advocacy tool for conservation issues in Colorado. Members of the Network receive e-mails when important issues are coming up for vote in the General Assembly. The CAN is very careful not to flood your inbox with too many messages - we only contact CAN members when the most important votes are on the

horizon. With the click of the "Act Now" button in the e-mail and a few keystrokes, your message will be sent directly to your legislator. Speaking your mind to your legislator has never been easier! To join the nearly 4,000 members of CAN, log on to www.coloradoactionnetwork.org today!

Sportsmen for Conservation

Do you like to hunt or fish and are concerned about the changes you see every season? We would like to talk to you about your experiences. CCV is reaching out to sportsmen and women across the state to build our conservation network. If you are a concerned angler or hunter and would like to become more involved, please contact Carrie Doyle at (303) 454-3347.

Volunteer with CCV

Colorado Conservation Voters is always looking for volunteers to help with fundraisers, mailings, and assist in important campaigns. Contact Ben Gregory at (303) 454-3349 today to sign up!

Sign Up for E-Copy!

The Colorado Conservation Voters Voice is available online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org. If you would rather view this publication online than receive it in the mail, let us know by e-mailing us at bgregory@coloradoconservationvoters.org. We'll let you know when new issues are posted and remove you from the mailing list. An archive of past issues is also available at the same address.