



Colorado Conservation Voters
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Colorado Action Network
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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 informs 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 conservationists in the political arena and to educate legislators, the media and the public about conservation 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

Fall 2007

Conservationists Celebrate at Fall Luncheon

On September 18th, conservationists, lawmakers, and business and labor leaders from across the state gathered together at the Grand Hyatt in Denver for the Seventh Annual Colorado Conservation Voters Fall Luncheon.

Joining the nearly 300 sponsors, legislators and CCV members was Keynote Speaker and 2006 CCV endorsed candidate, Governor Bill Ritter.

The Fall Luncheon is the largest annual event for CCV. This year's edition shattered both the previous attendance and fundraising records. The Luncheon was presented by The League of Conservation Voters and Patty Stulp, President of ERAS, Inc. Supporting Sponsors were BP America and Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell. A record seventeen individuals and businesses sponsored tables at the event.

Greenest Session in History

For the first time in many years, conservationists in Colorado have a Governor who shares their conservation values. Throughout his remarks, Governor Ritter was applauded for his administration's bold thinking on energy policy, public lands protection, and other environmental concerns.

"There is no doubt that this was the greenest legislative session in the history of the state," remarked the Governor, "except perhaps before electricity was invented."

Among the major initiatives advanced during the session were:

- Doubling Colorado's Renewable Energy Standard and including Rural Electricity Associations to make the policy statewide.

- Establishing the Clean Energy Fund to encourage investment in renewable energy systems.

- Reducing mercury emissions by 90% from old coal fired power plants.

- Creation of the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory to pool intellectual resources between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University and University of Colorado.

Energy Economy Touted

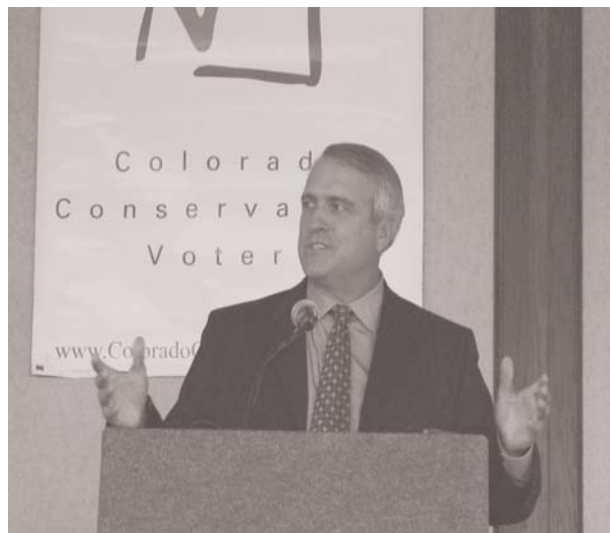
The Governor stated that we need to be "stubborn stewards about water, about air, about wildlife, about the things that make this state special." Already this year significant investment

has been made in wind energy in eastern Colorado and solar development in the San Luis Valley. This trend is expected to continue with the goal of Colorado becoming an exporter of clean energy in the future.

Legislative Champions Recognized

In addition to the Governor, dozens of lawmakers with high marks on the 2007 Conservation Scorecard were in attendance. Several key officials from the executive branch were also recognized. Joining the current office holders were several 2008 hopefuls for both Colorado and national office.

Video of the Governor's address can be found on the CCV Website at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org. Plans are already forming for the 2008 Fall Luncheon - if you or your business is interested in being a sponsor, please contact Ben Gregory at (303) 333-7846.



This year, Colorado made significant strides towards a more environmentally sustainable future. Through the work of Colorado Conservation Voters and the support of voters from across the state, Colorado elected the strongest pro-conservation legislature in its history in 2006. These conservation leaders have already left their mark on the environmental future of our state.

As we move forward into the second session of the sixty-sixth General Assembly, big challenges remain. Work must begin on addressing the biggest environmental challenge of our lifetimes - Climate Change. As has been the case with many of the largest issues this country has faced, issues such as civil rights, women's suffrage, and health care reform, individual states must rise to meet this challenge that the federal government is reluctant to address.

Climate Change is not the only tough conservation issue that Colorado needs to address. Water continues to be a touchstone issue, and we will look to our representatives to set balanced water policy that protects the quantity and quality of water available to communities, recreationists, and ecosystems across the state.

And perhaps tying all of our environmental concerns together, this legislature will tackle transportation policy and the important role that transportation plays in how our communities grow.

We will look to our representatives and Governor Ritter to address these challenges in the 2008 session of the Colorado General Assembly, and I hope that you will continue to stand with us as we work to protect those things that make this state so unique.



CCVEF Launches New Programs

Colorado Conservation Voters Education Fund has launched two new initiatives in 2007 - the Mesa County Civic Engagement Program and a Sportsmen Outreach Project.

"County commissioners have a tremendous impact on environmental policy," said CCVEF Deputy Director, Christina Sanchez Werner. "It is vital to educate voters on the important role commissioners play."

CCVEF is beginning its county level work by focusing on Mesa County in Western Colorado. Mesa County is facing tremendous pressures to develop its energy resources and the county government will play a prominent role in deciding how this development takes place. CCVEF will identify conservationists in Mesa County and educate and engage them on environmental policy.

Spearheading the Mesa County program is Matt Hudson, CCVEF's Mesa County Organizer. Matt was a student government leader at Mesa State College and has extensive campaign experience.

Through the Sportsmen Outreach program, CCVEF is continuing to grow the ties between sportsmen and environ-

mentalists. Sportsmen are some of the most engaged outdoor enthusiasts in the state and are an important voice for conservation.

"Sportsmen have a long history of leadership on conservation. Our goal is to bring everyone to the table and find common policy objectives," said Carrie Doyle, CCVEF Executive Director.

The goal of the Sportsmen Outreach Project is to identify and engage 7,500 pro-conservation hunters and anglers throughout the state. Once identified, these pro-conservation sportsmen will receive regular communications alerting them to actions that they can take to address their most pressing conservation concerns.

Paul Drey, CCVEF's new Sportsmen Outreach Coordinator, is leading this effort. Paul worked on Governor Ritter's campaign in 2006.



"Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries."

- Jimmy Carter

Conservation News

Double Your Gift to CCVEF

Thanks to a generous Challenge Grant by The Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, any new or increased gifts to CCV Education Fund from now through the end of the year will be matched, dollar for dollar. The CCV Education Fund works to increase the civic participation of conservationists, connects citizens to their legislators through the Colorado Action Network, and works to bring new constituencies under the conservation tent. Gifts to CCVEF are tax deductible as allowed by law. This is the third year that the Gay & Lesbian Fund has issued a Challenge Grant on behalf of CCVEF. If you would like to give, please visit the CCVEF Website at www.ccvef.org or call Ben Gregory at (303) 333-7846.

Governor's Report Card Coming Soon

In the coming weeks, CCV will release the 2007 Governor's Conservation Report Card. The Report Card will grade Governor Ritter on his first year in office and is the companion piece to the Legislative Conservation Scorecard. The Governor's Report Card was first produced in 2005.

The Governor's Report Card will be available online at CCV's Website at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org. We will notify our members of the Report Card release through e-mail. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to join, contact us at bgregory@coloradoconservationvoters.org.

Join the CAN Today!

With the 2008 legislative session just around the corner, today is the day to join 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 key issues are up for vote in the General Assembly. With a click of the "Act Now" button and a few keystrokes, your message will be sent directly to your legislator. Communicating with your legislators has never been easier! To join the CAN, log on to www.coloradoactionnetwork.org today!

CCV to Hold First Member Meeting

As part of CCV's growing membership program, CCV will hold its first Annual Membership Meeting on January 16, 2008. This special event will be open, free of charge to all CCV members. The event will serve as a kickoff for the legislative session and will include a preview of some of the important issues and races of the 2008 General Election. The Membership Meeting will be held in Denver.

All donors of \$25 or more in 2007 are considered members of CCV. The first \$50 of all eligible membership contributions will directly support pro-environment candidates in the most important races across the state through the CCV Action Fund Small Donor Committee. If you would like to join today, please visit the CCV

Website or call Ben Gregory at (303) 333-7846.

Sportsmen for Conservation

Do you like to hunt or fish and are concerned about the changes you see every season? CCVEF would like to talk to you about your experiences. CCVEF 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 CCVEF's Sportsmen Outreach Coordinator Paul Drey at (303) 919-8133.

Become a Volunteer with CCV

Colorado Conservation Voters is looking for volunteers to help with fundraisers, mailings, and to assist in important campaigns in the upcoming 2008 elections. Contact Ben Gregory at (303) 454-3349 today to sign up!

Save a Tree - 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.