

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Christian Y. Leinbach
Berks County Commissioner
Pennsylvania

Vice President: Don Rosier
Jefferson County Commissioner
Colorado

Secretary: Cindy R. Bobbitt
Grant County Commissioner
Oklahoma

Treasurer: Joe Briggs
Cascade County Commissioner
Missouri

Immediate Past President: Ray Valdes
Seminole County Tax Collector
Florida

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1: Bill Doherty
Barnstable County
Commissioner, MA

Region 2: Terence Farrell
Chester County
Commissioner, PA

Region 3: Joe Carpenter
Gaston County
Commissioner, NC

Region 4: Dennis Hollingsworth
St. Johns County
Tax Collector, FL

Region 5: Gary Moore
Boone County
Judge/Executive, KY

Region 6: Kent Ward
Hamilton County
Surveyor, IN

Region 7: Dave Sellie
Burke County
Commissioner, ND

Region 8: Stephen Holt
Jasper County Collector
of Revenue, MO

Region 9: Jon Burrows
Bell County
Judge, TX

Region 10: Don Rosier
Jefferson County
Commissioner, CO

Region 11: Greg Chilcott
Ravalli County
Commissioner, MT

Region 12: Michael K. Jeanes
Maricopa County Clerk of
the Superior Court, AZ

GOP

County Courier



January, 2014

President's Letter
2014...A Year for Growth and Influence

The year 2013 brought some challenges to NCRCO, not unlike challenges people and businesses face every day. The annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas was a positive step toward the future for our team. We elected officers for the year and added some new faces on our Board. We heard a challenging message from Texas Congressman Joe Barton during our Reception on what lies ahead for the GOP.



That was then and this now. We made some good strides, but now we need to continue the momentum. My goal as your President is to make our meetings more than just a networking opportunity. I want us to look for issues at the federal level which are important to NACo, but also review the kinds of issues that allow NCRCO to provide constructive problem solving leadership. I want us to bring in speakers that challenge us in our service to our county and our nation.

I'm asking you to support me and our Board in achieving the following goals:
(1) We will use the bulk of each business meeting to highlight one or two issues that are important to NACo and are the kind of issue on which we can and should provide leadership direction. In order to get the most value out of the business meetings, each issue should be vetted well in advance of the meeting by our Board of Directors and those chosen, then made available to all NCRCO members. On January 15th our Board had a conference call and discussed several possibilities. We settled on an important issue that the EPA is trying to sneak in the "regulation door" regarding the Clean Water Act. For those that remember the floor victory at a NACo Annual Meeting a few years ago regarding the "Navigable Water" language, this is another covert attempt on this issue. Our Treasurer, Commissioner Joe Briggs, along with Board members Judge Gary Moore and Commissioner Bill Doherty, comprise our NCRCO Issues Committee. Joe Briggs is providing more detail on this important matter in another article in this newsletter. You can read the article and come prepared to discuss it in detail at the NCRCO business meeting in Washington, DC. If we don't take on substantive issues, I'm not sure we have a viable reason to continue to exist.

(2) We are seeking to bring speakers to our NCRCO Receptions that challenge us and encourage us in our work as county leaders across this wonderful nation. Congressman Joe Barton was an excellent beginning. Your NCRCO leadership are working with me to aggressively bring in inspiring and influential leaders of the GOP from across the United States to address us. We are likely not to agree with every speaker on every issue. But it can't simply be about agreement. I believe we need to be challenged to know and understand what we believe and why. Sometimes we are guilty of believing or accepting a position because it's the "official party position." Let me suggest that is not a good reason. Let's be willing to dig in and understand the issues and principles involved and then work to solve whatever the challenge may be. We are committed to bring in speakers that challenge us to do just that.

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (cont'd)

If we do these two things well in 2014 my third goal will take care of itself. I want to see our membership and event attendance grow to between 140 and 190 by our Summer meeting in New Orleans.

If we are going to be influential at the national level as we have been in the past, then we need you to join us. Will you commit to be part of NCRCO's future? Please make plans now to join us at the Legislative Conference in Washington DC at the DC Hilton.

NCRCO's future depends on what we do with the opportunity given to us. I know we are all very busy and most of us never have enough time. I'm reminded of the words of my late Aunt Alice. Whenever I would tell her I didn't have time for something, she would say; "there is never enough time, you need to make time." She was right. Let's make time to help grow the positive influence of NCRCO within county government in 2014.

WHEN WILL NCRCO MEET NEXT?

- * Legislative Conference in Washington, DC is March 1-5, 2014. Our meeting will be on Monday, March 3rd, at 5:30 pm, followed by a Reception at 6:15 pm. The key-note speaker at our Reception will be Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi.
- * Annual Meeting during the NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans (July 11-14, 2014). Our meeting will be Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 6:00pm.



NCRCO REGIONS

- Region 1: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
- Region 2: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
- Region 3: Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
- Region 4: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
- Region 5: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
- Region 6: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
- Region 7: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin
- Region 8: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
- Region 9: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
- Region 10: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
- Region 11: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington
- Region 12: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada



SPONSORS

NACo is the only national association that represents county governments in the United States. NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,069 counties and advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

NACo membership is an investment in your county's future because the association works to ensure that counties have the resources, skills and support needed to successfully lead their communities into the future. Your county's membership with NACo saves you and your county time and money and helps you grow professionally.



NACo Health Discount Program



Select Energy Services is headquartered in Houston, Texas, and has grown to become a company with over \$1 billion in revenues and more than 5,000 employees. We provide services to more than 400 customers in every major shale play throughout the United States and Canada. We deliver innovative and efficient end-to-end water solutions and wellsite services to oilfield operators through two primary divisions:

[WaterOne™](#) and [WellOne™](#).

Phone: 713.296.1000

The National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) annual business meeting was held Sunday, July 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Texas Ballroom A at the Ft. Worth Convention Center in Ft. Worth, Texas.

President Christian Leinbach called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was given followed by the Flag Salute lead by Autumn Lehrke.

Officers present were:

President Christian Leinbach

Secretary Cindy Bobbitt

Past President & Region 4 Director Ray Valdes

Officer absent was:

Treasurer Stephen Holt

Directors present were:

Region 7 Autumn Lehrke

Region 10 Dennis Hisey

Region 11 Joe Briggs

Directors absent were:

Region 1 Bill Doherty

Region 2 Scott Martin

Region 3 Joe Bryan

Region 5 Gary Moore

Region 6 Vacant

Region 8 Brent C. Oleson

Region 9 Gary Fickes

Region 12 Michael K. Jeanes

NACo Staff Liaison:

Ryan Yates

Members present (per sign in sheet) were:

Beryl Amedee (LA)

Dana Patten (OK)

Glen Howell (DE)

Jon Burrows (TX)

Jeff C. Wheeland (LA)

Joe D. Carpenter (NC)

David Sellie (ND)

John Justman (CO)

Newt Stephens (OK)

Donald Rosier (CO)

Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (NH)

Carol Holden (NH)

Terence Farrell (PA)

Tom Trimble (OK)

Amy Lathan (CO)

Aaron Lawlor (IL)

Paul Boyd (TN)

Karl Peterjohn (KS)

Tommy Roedell (OK)

Rusty Sullivan (OK)

Lew Gaiter (CO)

Shawn Sant (WA)

Jim Healy (IL)

Dan Joyce (OR)

Secretary Bobbitt said that there were no recorded minutes from the previous meeting held in Washington D.C. in March, 2013 due to changes in NCRCO leadership and because election of new officers was held at the end of the business meeting. C. Holden made a motion to suspend the rule for reading and approval of the previous meeting minutes. J. Wheeland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Leinbach gave a brief update on NCRCO with past history and future direction of NCRCO. Acknowledgements along with thanks and praises were given to the following:

To R. Valdes for moving the organization forward by preparing the newsletter, activating and updating the website, and bringing the membership roster up to date with current county officials.

To Glen Whitley and Tom Stalling for working to secure U.S. Congressman Joe Barton to speak at the NCRCO Reception, which will follow the business meeting.

To J. Briggs for preparing and distributing flyers about the NCRCO business meeting and reception.

To A. Lehrke for organizing the food and drinks for the reception.

To C. Bobbitt for securing Select Energy as a sponsor.

To C. Leinbach for securing CVS/Caremark as a sponsor and creating a Facebook page.

(Continued on page 4)

MINUTES (cont'd)

A copy of the financial report submitted by Treasurer Holt was passed around to the membership. Secretary Bobbitt reported that the Audit Committee consisting of Leinbach, Holt and Bobbitt met and reviewed the report in May, 2013 at the WIR Conference in Flagstaff, AZ. Bobbitt moved to approve the report as presented. K. Peterjohn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Hospitality Committee report was given by A. Lehrke that included \$1,367.30 spent for food for the reception and that there will be a cash bar available. Free drink tickets will be given to the sponsors.

The Budget and Finance Committee report was given by R. Valdes. The budget for the coming year will be the same as the current year.

President Leinbach reported that he will be looking into all committees and seeking volunteers to chair and work within the committees as needed.

R. Valdes served as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The committee was successful in seeking out interested members to serve as officers and for eleven of the twelve region directors.

The committee put forward the following names for consideration:

President – Christian Leinbach (PA)
Vice President – Autumn Lehrke (MN)
Secretary – Cindy Bobbitt (OK)
Treasurer – Joe Briggs (MT)
Immediate Past President – Ray Valdes (FL)

Nominations from the floor were opened. None made. C. Holden moved to accept the nominations and elect the slate as presented. K. Peterjohn seconded. Motion carried.

The committee has put for the following names for consideration for Region Directors:

Region 1 – Bill Doherty (MA)	Region 7 – None
Region 2 – Terence Farrell (PA)	Region 8 – Stephen Holt (MO)
Region 3 – Joe Carpenter (NC)	Region 9 – Jon Burrows (TX)
Region 4 – Dennis Hollingsworth (FL)	Region 10 – Don Rosier (CO)
Region 5 – Gary Moore (KY)	Region 11 – Greg Chilcott (MT)
Region 6 – Kent Ward (IN)	Region 12 – Michael Jeanes (AZ)

Nominations from the floor were opened. None made. C. Holden moved to accept the nominations and elect the slate as presented. J. Wheeland seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations for Region 7 director were entertained. David Sellie from Berk County North Dakota said he would be willing to serve. N. Stephens motioned to elect D. Sellie. J. Wheeland second. Motion carried.

President Leinbach opened the floor for comments on why there are political Caucuses at NACo and to what extent NCRCO should be involved with NACo. Much discussion followed. All agreed that NCRCO should not just collect dues and talk to each other. We should be more active in suggesting and directing policy within NACo.

President Leinbach asked R. Yates, NACo Staff Liaison, if there was a way that NCRCO could communicate more directly with the NACo membership. Did NACo have a database with party affiliation? Can we send a direct message through NACo about NCRCO? R. Yates said that he is still working with NACo on these issues and will get back to President Leinbach at a later time.

B. Amedee motioned to adjourn at 6:40 pm. B. Asplund-Walsh seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

NEWS UPDATE: Region 10 Director, Don Rosier (CO) has been appointed NCRCO Vice President, filling the vacancy from the unfortunate resignation of Autumn Lehrke (MN), to complete the term ending July 13, 2014.

Let me begin by wishing all of you a very Happy New Year and letting you know that the NCRCO is financially sound and poised for growth in 2014. January of each New Year marks not only the beginning of a fresh year filled with opportunities, but also means it is time to renew your financial commitment to the NCRCO as well. Our dues are based on the calendar year, so all of us including myself need to pay our 2014 dues.

Historically we have collected the dues at the March Legislative Conference, but that has created quite a bottleneck of our members trying to get into the reception, fill in the dues form, fill in a name tag and pay their dues at the same time. This year, instead of that last minute flurry of activity, we are going to be proactive by giving you the opportunity to pay your dues in advance.

You will shortly be receiving a mailing from us asking you to update your contact information and to send in your dues. Your cooperation in this matter will allow us to have your name tags ready in advance so that all you will need to do to get into the reception is identify yourself, grab your name tag and proceed to the refreshments.

Please remember that the reception is for members and paid guests only. You will not be granted admittance unless you are current on your dues. Each paid member may bring one guest with them to the reception at a reduced rate of \$15 for the guest. Your dues form will allow you to prepay for your guest's attendance and we encourage you to take advantage of this easy step as well.

Thank you for your past support. I look forward to seeing you in March. I have included a simplified financial statement below and am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Description	Revenue	Expenses	Account Balance
Balance from prior NCRCO Treasurer	\$1,513		\$1,513
Dues collected after July 21, 2013	\$775		\$2,288
Final Expenses for July NACo Event		\$188	\$2,100
Sponsorships –			
Select Energy	\$2,500		
Caremark	\$3,500		\$8,100
Website Expenses – Domain Name Hosting		\$48	\$8,052
December 31, 2013 Year End Balance			\$8,052



MEMBERSHIP REPLY

- YES, I want to be an active participant in the National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) and help support the programs that will benefit all local elected and appointed Republicans. Enclosed is my annual membership fee of \$25.

Please complete the following information. Send your reply along with your \$25 check, payable to:

The National Conference of Republican County Officials
NCRCO TREASURER, Joe Briggs, 5900 Western Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404

NAME _____ TITLE _____
 ADDRESS _____ COUNTY _____
 _____ OFFICE PHONE # _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ FAX # _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____ HOME/CELL PHONE # _____

Contributions to the National Conference of Republican County Officials are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.
 Authorized and paid for by the National Conference of Republican County Officials.

New Members: Cut out the Membership Reply form, complete it, and send it in today!

REGION 4 UPDATE
FLORIDA 2014 ELECTION UPDATE
By Dennis Hollingsworth – NCRCO Region 4 Director

The upcoming 2014 election year will be significant in the State of Florida. The Governor and Cabinet, State Senate and Representative races, as well as other district, county and judicial races will be decided. It is the governor's race, though, that will dominate the national spotlight.

Republican Governor Rick Scott will face opposition from Charlie Crist, his predecessor, who was elected as a Republican, switched to Independent while in office, then opted for Democrat before declaring his intention to run for office again. Crist caught political heat from the GOP for his embrace of President Obama while Governor – a gesture that has served him well in his latest political party affiliation.

The total number of active registered voters in the State of Florida has decreased from 12,038,571 in 2012 to 11,801,296 as of November 2013, according to the Florida Division of Elections website. The number of registered Democrat voters, though, continues to be higher than the number of registered Republicans by about 500,000. It is predicted that the population of Florida will exceed the population of New York within the next year or so. Considering the main reason for this is the mass exodus of Northern Democrats for warmer southern climes, this could have a significant impact on the Red state of Florida when congressional redistricting takes place in 2020.

Petition drives for a number of proposed ballot initiatives are frantically heading into the home stretch with a Feb. 1 deadline. The most visible initiative has to do making marijuana legal, but other topics being put forth include: definition of marriage; fracking; state funding for embryonic research; firearms; single payer health care; water and land conservation, and billboards to name a few.

Get Involved!



Like NCRCO on Facebook!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/NCRCO>

Volunteer to Chair a standing committee – These committees are waiting for you! Ray Valdes is Chair of the Nominating Committee. Send in your application today to be on the Ballot in July!

- a. **AUDIT COMMITTEE:** The Audit Committee is charged with auditing the Treasurer's books and making a report of findings during the NCRCO Annual Business Meeting. The Committee shall consist of at least four (4) NCRCO members, other than current NCRCO Officers and Regional Directors, one of whom shall be an active NCRCO Past President.
- b. **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The NCRCO Treasurer is the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for developing the Annual NCRCO Budget in conjunction with the President, presenting it to the NCRCO Board of Directors and membership for approval, and for securing sponsorship funding support for the organization.
- c. **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:** The Hospitality Committee is responsible for working with the President to oversee, plan and implement all NCRCO Receptions and Hospitality events.
- d. **ISSUES COMMITTEE:** The Issues Committee is responsible for formulating ideas and proposals for endorsement by the Board of Directors and membership, and bringing forth appropriate Resolutions and positions for official action by the organization.
- e. **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Membership Committee assists the Treasurer with maintenance of current NCRCO membership records. Coordinating with the RNC, NACo, and the NCRCO Regional Directors, the Committee shall solicit new memberships for the organization from all of the Republican County Officials throughout the United States, compile a current NCRCO membership prospectus, and distribute same to prospective new members.
- f. **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** The Newsletter Committee is responsible for the production and distribution of the official NCRCO Newsletter "GOP COUNTY COURIER", which is sent to all NCRCO members, Officers of NACo, and other interested parties as may be determined beneficial to NCRCO.

REGION 9 UPDATE

Jon Burrows, NCRCO Region 9 Director

NCRCO
JAN. 2014

Arkansas: The Republican Party of Arkansas is holding its Winter State Committee Meeting and a Special Event with Senator Rand Paul on January 31, 2014 in Hot Springs, and will hold its State Committee Meeting on February 1st.

The Party congratulated John Cooper on winning the State Senate District 21 Special Election. This is a district seat that has previously been solid Democrat and is indicative of the further changing of the political tide in Arkansas.

Louisiana: Roll Call reports that Harry Reid's Senate Majority PAC is again pouring money into Louisiana to defend Senator Mary Landrieu's liberal voting record. Louisiana GOP Spokesman Ryan Cross said, "There is no amount of money Michael Bloomberg or Harry Reid can spend to hide Mary Landrieu's liberal record from the people of Louisiana."

Louisiana will be welcoming the NACo Annual Conference to the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans July 11-14, 2014. NCRCO is working on getting a high level Louisiana Elected Official to speak at our membership reception.

Oklahoma: The Republican Party continues to be a powerhouse in Oklahoma. In 2012 Republicans won every Congressional seat and expanded its majority in both the State House and Senate. Republican voter registration is at an all-time high.

Senator Tom Coburn announced he would be leaving office in December 2014, two years before his term ends. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said of Coburn, "He is without question one of the most intelligent, principled, and decent men in modern Senate history." Republican Party Chairman Dave Wesson stated that the list of possible candidates to succeed Coburn is very long, which speaks to the deep bench of excellent leaders that Oklahoma has in the Republican Party.

Texas: March 4th will be a busy day in the Republican Primary in Texas. Senator John Cornyn has 7 opponents, and Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst has 3. Open seats include Governor (4 candidates); Attorney General (3); Comptroller (4); Land Commissioner (2, including George P. Bush); and Agriculture Commissioner (5). All of these offices are currently held by Republicans and have been for several elections. After the Primary, the Party will be making a concerted effort to continue its dominance on the General Election ballot.

Texas considers itself among the strongest Republican states in the nation. Every statewide elected office and majorities in the state senate, state house and on the state board of education are held by Republicans. Texas Republicans have majorities in 107 Texas counties that contain nearly two-thirds of the state's population. (Over two dozen Democrat elected officials have switched to the Republican Party since November 2010.)

All Region 9 states were Red States in the presidential elections of 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. Expectations are high for each state's Republican Party in the elections of 2014 and 2016.

REGION 12 UPDATE

Michael Jeanes, NCRCO Region 12 Director

The Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada Republican Parties are excited about the 2014 election year. All are conducting meetings, conventions and/or Lincoln Day Dinners in the first few months of the year. Energy and enthusiasm are high concerning the prospects for success.

On January 30, 2014, the Hawaii Republican Party held a special event to pay tribute to the Honorable Pat Saiki. Ms. Saiki has had 25 years in public service, including representing Hawaii's 1st Congressional District (1987-91) and as the 17th Administrator of the Small Business Administration (1991-93) under President George H.W. Bush.

The Republican primary election for Arizona governor now has seven candidates. The primary election will be held on August 26th. The successful candidate will have to quickly switch gears to fire up for the general election campaign. There is one announced Democrat candidate in the race. Republican candidates are: AZ Secretary of State Ken Bennett, AZ State Treasurer Doug Ducey, Mesa (AZ) Mayor Scott Smith, former Go Daddy Executive Christine Jones, State Senator Al Melvin, former Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas, and former California Congressman Frank Riggs.

FINDING THE VALUE IN AGRICULTURAL WATER

Water continues to be an important county issue. Availability, quality and conservation are just a few of the factors County Commissioners deal with when wrestling with water decisions. At the NACo WIR Conference, Commissioners were able to hear the latest on the important topic of protecting against the drying up of agricultural water.

It is difficult to discuss agricultural land drying up without defining the value of agricultural water. Gary Barber, Chair of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, Dr. Perry Cabot, Water Resource Specialist from the Colorado Water Institute and Dick Brown, from Sand Dollar Research, presented a summary from a conference held by the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance earlier in the year. The purpose of the conference was to find a way to value agricultural water so that when the inevitable conversation arises about finding the balance between water conservation, growth and agriculture in Colorado, policy makers will have the best information.

The focus of the valuation conversation centered on the Arkansas River Basin. The importance of water to the Arkansas Basin is obvious; however, quantifying the value is another matter. Presenters showed that the value of irrigated agricultural land to this river basin alone is over \$695 million. An 8% flow reduction, whether due to dry years or through agricultural land dry up, would reduce that value by \$82 million and cost 950 jobs. A 17% reduced flow brings that number to \$174 million. Impacts are felt not only on the agricultural industry, with a loss of thousands of jobs, but also on the recreational industry and the associated impact on communities. Overall, the entire economic value, including all spillover benefits, of agricultural and recreational water to just the Arkansas Basin amounts to \$1.36 billion dollars.

Numbers like this show the importance for Colorado as future negotiators sit to discuss water. As the headwaters state, having data like this is essential to protect the interests of Colorado citizens throughout the state. If Colorado is able to find the balance between urban growth and agricultural protection, then the state's position will be much stronger when future dry years force the difficult conversations on water use to occur.

COUNTY SERVICES IN JEOPARDY IF CONGRESS DOES NOT FUND PILT

DENVER – The U.S. Congress reached compromise on a \$1.1 trillion budget deal. While there is much to praise, this compromise allows Congress to avoid what all responsible American property owners must do – take care of the property they own.

The U.S. government owns over 23 million acres of Colorado land. Unlike other property owners, the federal government is not subject to the local property taxes that fund the infrastructure, services, and personnel that serve the land it owns. Instead, for more than 40 years, the federal government has made payments in lieu of taxes (PILT), to make up for the property taxes that would be paid to local government if the land were private.

As a result of not funding PILT, counties will have to severely reduce or eliminate critical county services to the public. Counties will be critically hobbled in their ability to provide search and rescue, respond to fires, and provide road integrity on public lands.

Commissioner John Martin of Garfield County and president of NACo's Western Interstate Region pointed out that "Not funding PILT jeopardizes not only residents but all visitors to our public lands. We need to find a quick and permanent solution to this problem".

"If Fremont County loses \$1 million in PILT money it will deplete most of our reserves and we will have to start looking immediately at where to cut critical services in the coming months" noted Fremont County Commissioner Ed Norden.

"The US budget compromise omitted provisions for these payments entirely. If this is not remedied, it will deprive Colorado local governments of nearly \$32 million in badly-needed revenue to keep the nation's Colorado backyard maintained and in repair," said Chip Taylor, executive director of Colorado Counties, Inc. "Senators Udall and Bennet and Representative Tipton have been leading the charge to protect this vital funding and we are sorry their voices were not heeded in this recent budget deal."

It cannot be easy to balance all of the competing desires in Congress, but it is unacceptable for the US government, in the name of compromise, to forego its duty to care for property it already owns. If there is not sufficient revenue to keep these lands open to the American public, Coloradans will have to hope that tourists come to Colorado for other reasons.

COLORADO RULES GOVERNING RETAIL MARIJUANA

On November 6, 2012, Colorado voters approved an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, Article XVIII, Section 16, popularly known as "Amendment 64," which directed the Colorado Department of Revenue to promulgate rules governing businesses that cultivate and sell Retail Marijuana. The amendment was proclaimed into the Colorado Constitution on December 10, 2012.

Amendment 64 presented issues of first impression in Colorado and the United States, along with very short timeframes for implementation. Governor John Hickenlooper established the Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force, co-chaired by the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue, Barbara Brohl and the Governor's Chief Legal Counsel Jack Finlaw, on December 10, 2012. The Governor directed the Task Force "to identify the legal, policy, and procedural issues that must be resolved, and to offer suggestions and proposals for legislative, regulatory, and executive actions that need to be taken, for the effective and efficient implementation of Amendment 64." The Task Force, assisted by several Working Groups, provided extensive policy recommendations to the Colorado General Assembly.

The Colorado General Assembly adopted three bills during the 2013 legislative session to implement Amendment 64, and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper signed those bills into law on May 28, 2013. Amendment 64 and the implementing legislation (particularly, House Bill 13-1317) requires that the State Licensing Authority, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue, promulgate certain rules on or before July 1, 2013. To comply with those requirements within the short period between adoption of the legislation and required promulgation of rules, the State Licensing Authority adopted emergency rules governing Retail Marijuana in the state of Colorado.

Immediately after adopting the emergency regulations, the Department of Revenue convened five representative groups, known as working groups, which provided input and substantive suggestions regarding proposed rules governing Retail Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Businesses in Colorado. Each working group discussed a different set of issues, broken down as follows: Licensing, Licensed Premises, Transportation, and Storage; Licensed Entities and Inventory Tracking; Record Keeping, Enforcement and Discipline; Labeling, Packaging, Product Safety & Marketing; and Medical Differentiation. Representatives from law enforcement, the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Public Health and Environment, local authorities, industry members, trade industries, child protection advocates, and subject matter experts in the fields of substance abuse, toxicology, pharmacology and marketing participated in the working groups.

On July 15, 2013, the State Licensing Authority filed a Notice of Rulemaking with the Colorado Secretary of State. Since that time, many written comments from the public have been submitted.

The State Licensing Authority has considered all materials considered by or produced by the Governor's Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force and its working groups; the oral and written record of the meetings of the State Licensing Authority's rulemaking working groups; all written comments submitted regarding the proposed rules; and all oral testimony provided during the rulemaking hearings.

The State Licensing Authority has also considered the direction provided by the United States Department of Justice through an August 29, 2013 letter from United States Attorney General Eric Holder to Governors John Hickenlooper of Colorado and Jay Inslee of Washington, and an accompanying memorandum to all United States Attorneys from Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole. Through this correspondence, the United States Department of Justice has clarified that it will continue to enforce the Controlled Substances Act in Colorado, but that it will not challenge Colorado's ability to regulate the Retail Marijuana industry in accordance with state law, based upon the expectation that the state and local governments will implement strong and effective regulatory and enforcement systems that address public safety, public health and other law enforcement interests. Some of those federal law enforcement priorities of particular relevance to these rules include preventing the distribution of marijuana to minors, preventing the diversion of marijuana from states where it is legal under state law to other states, and preventing the exacerbation of adverse public health consequences associated with marijuana use. As an illustration, Deputy Attorney General Cole noted that the federal interest in preventing the distribution of marijuana to minors "would call for enforcement not just when an individual or entity sells or transfers marijuana to a minor, but also when marijuana trafficking takes place near an area associated with minors; when marijuana or marijuana infused products are marketed in a manner to appeal to minors; or when marijuana is being diverted, directly or indirectly, and purposefully or otherwise, to minors."

In adopting these rules, the State Licensing Authority is complying with the mandates and objectives set forth by the people of the State of Colorado through Amendment 64 and the Colorado General Assembly through House Bill 1317. These rules are designed not to make the operation of Retail Marijuana Establishments unreasonably impracticable, but also promote public safety and ensure compliance with constitutional and statutory guidelines. These rules must implement the extensive regulatory requirements set forth in Amendment 64 and House Bill 13-1317. Above all though, these rules accomplish the state of Colorado's guiding principle through this process: to create a robust regulatory and enforcement environment that protects public safety and prevents diversion of Retail Marijuana to individuals under the age of 21 or to individuals outside the state of Colorado.