



Counties and individual commissioners across Colorado working to provide a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the statehouse. Collectively, CCAT represents all regions of the state and the diversity of issues facing every corner of Colorado.

2018 Policy Priorities

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WORKING FAMILIES & ECONOMIC VITALITY

CCAT supports:

- **Increased economic opportunity and improved equity and self-sufficiency** for all Coloradans.
- **Promoting local economic development policies that provide pathways** to living-wage careers and enhance community economic vitality, through means such as employment readiness, job training, and self-sufficiency programs.

2018 POLICY PRIORITY: Affordable Housing

CCAT urges policies that develop tools and funding sources for the development of affordable and available workforce housing solutions at the State and local level.

Access to affordable and available workforce housing is arguably the most significant issue that is occurring in counties throughout Colorado. With the population of Colorado expected to double in the next 25 years this is a problem that will certainly become more severe without pro-active measures being taken.

1. Engage with Housing Colorado and other stakeholders to revise and reintroduce HB 17-1309, Documentary Fee to Fund Affordable Housing.

Consider:

- Increasing the amount of money generated for the fund;
- Pursuing funding sources other than just the documentary fee;
- Keeping funds in county of origin;
- Tailoring fund mechanics to better address needs at the county or regional level; and,
- Tailoring fund mechanics to provide distribution of revenues directly to local governments.



*For more information on these or other CCAT issues, please contact Aponte & Busam Public Affairs
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2. **Expand allowable uses for the Lodging Tax established by CRS 30-11-107.5** to include community and workforce housing, either through the county or local housing authority. Currently, these funds are dedicated only to tourism advertising and marketing.

2018 POLICY PRIORITY: *Human Services Funding*

CCAT urges additional state funding be provided to human services programs serving children and families. The strength of local human services departments is critical to a healthy community and dependent on State funding.

House Bill 14-1317 made sweeping changes to CCCAP and the recent County Administration Workload Study does not appropriately reflect the need of counties for additional funding to address unmet needs which exceed counties' current capacity. While additional funding has been provided for new child welfare caseworkers, it does not address the overall demand for services and workload across the entire state.

1. **Increase appropriation to the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** to ensure continued access to subsidized child care, increase rates to encourage higher quality child care settings, and support the new tiered system.
2. **Expand the workforce study to provide a comprehensive picture of need** and provide funding for the recommendations developed.
3. **Provide additional funding for the child welfare block appropriation** to address:
 - Increased reports of child abuse/neglect; and,
 - Support the cost of doing business for this crucial child safety program.

PROMOTE HEALTHY PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

CCAT supports:

- **Establishing and sustaining healthy communities** that strengthen (1) individuals and families and (2) positive outcomes for the future.
- **Policies that will ensure support healthy lives for Coloradans**, including the well-being of seniors; providing access to health care for all, including behavioral health care, maintain safe and affordable housing; and, improving access to effective and efficient public benefits and services.

Colorado counties are the front door to the state's health system, investing significant limited local resources in community health systems. Colorado counties help provide financial support to local hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, behavioral health authorities and public health departments.

Medicaid provides important and critical coverage for Coloradans statewide. In rural areas it is a key factor in keeping rural health care providers afloat, preserving resident's ability to maintain critical access to hospitals and primary care providers. Increased health care coverage through subsidies and Medicaid directly supports jobs and the economy, especially in rural communities. In addition health care jobs associated with Medicaid offer skilled, livable-wage jobs to hundreds of rural Coloradoans.

2018 POLICY PRIORITY: *Health Care Stability*

CCAT urges the following protections for Colorado communities:

For Rural Colorado

1. **Protect communities from a pendulum swing.** The health care economies in rural communities are uniquely unable to absorb rapid changes to the health care landscape, due to their ongoing challenges in obtaining health care providers and already precarious budgets.
2. **Protect local authority and autonomy.** A one-size-fits-all approaches to health care reform will exacerbate inefficiencies and inequities, placing communities that already struggle to find affordable, quality care at a greater disadvantage.
3. **Protect and support continued Federal investments.** Rural residents are disproportionately reliant on federal programs and subsidies to help them maintain access to quality health care. Rural health providers, including physicians and hospitals, typically operate on slim budgets and are not able to absorb additional reductions.

For Urban/Suburban Colorado

1. **Reject approaches that simply shift cost onto state and local governments.** 93.3% of Coloradans currently have insurance, in part due to the expansion of coverage under the Affordable Care Act. If federal funding is taken away from states, an estimated \$14 billion shortfall will be passed on to state and local governments. It is essential to ensure a sufficient, sustained federal share of funding as state and local governments simply do not have the capacity to absorb a proportionately larger share of the program cost. Doing so would cause devastating impacts on other areas of budget such as education and transportation.
2. **Address rigid fiscal policies** embedded in our state constitution, including TABOR, Amendment 23 and Gallagher, which limit the flexibility and budgeting tools available to state policymakers. While federal cost shifting to state and local governments is an issue across the country it is a particular challenge in Colorado because of these policies.
3. **Reject approaches that create an uneven playing field in the health care market.** Instability increases costs. Any transition to a new system must provide adequate time for carriers to implement changes in a way that minimizes impact to their business model and consumers.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY

CCAT supports:

- **Policies to promote environmental resiliency** through multi-modal transportation; appropriate land use practices and development; energy efficiency and renewable energy; and, conservation of resources through agricultural and forestry practices which ensure healthy land, water and air.
- **Reasonable regulation of extractive industries** to protect air and water quality, reduce carbon and methane emissions, and reduce public health and safety impacts to residents.

2018 POLICY PRIORITY: *Transportation*

CCAT urges establishing a new dedicated funding stream for statewide multimodal transportation investments, which does not divert revenues from current state spending priorities.

1. **Dedicate** a significant portion of this **new funding to multimodal purposes**:
 - A minimum of 30%, based on MPACT64 agreement;
 - Focus on transit, bicycle, pedestrian, senior, and transportation demand-management investments;
 - Funding for both transit capital and ongoing operations; and,
 - Allocated by local governments in collaboration with transit providers.
2. **Direct** a significant portion of this **new funding should be directed to local governments** for transportation improvements, reconstruction, maintenance, and operations. This is necessary to support local transportation needs and priorities.
3. **Strongly consider managed lanes and multi-modal options** during the planning and development of significant capacity improvements on state highway facilities:
 - This approach follows the US 36 model and supports regional equity;
 - Managed lanes will ensure that new capacity will be congestion-free for the long-term and encourage transit and high occupancy/car share alternatives;
 - Colorado Department of Transportation should be working toward a unified transportation system that embraces new technologies and supportive infrastructure necessary address the ever increasing volume.
4. **Prohibit bonding authority** unless accompanied by new revenue:
 - Repayment of bonds for new infrastructure should not be at the expense of maintaining existing infrastructure.

2018 POLICY PRIORITY: *Forest Health*

CCAT urges encouraging healthy forests of the future, allowing natural disturbance cycles in backcountry forests and focusing active management in wildland urban interface areas and around critical community infrastructure.

1. **Address residential development** in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI):
 - Increase support for county implementation of the Department of Local Affairs' "Planning for Hazard's Guide";
 - Develop local tools to restrict new residential development in the WUI and/or place financial responsibility of State/Federal firefighting efforts in such development to the developer or the homeowner.
2. **Focus State wildfire mitigation funding** on protecting critical community infrastructure especially drinking water resources;
 - Incent and fund forest management activities that protect valuable headwaters and watersheds;
 - Require all treatments for forest health and restoration and timber harvest to include wildfire mitigation for watersheds with current best management practices to protect watersheds.
3. **Encourage healthy forests** that are allowed to naturally adapt to climate change.
 - Support prescribed fire as an effective tool for restoration.

- Make air-quality and other permitting processes more flexible to that prescribed fire can be used in a timely manner.
4. **Support a more balanced representation** on the State Forest Health Advisory Council to include non-timber industry stakeholders, wildlife biologists, and up-to-date ecological science experience.
 5. **Coordinate on legislative solutions** with the Wildfire Matters Interim Legislative Committee.

LOCAL CONTROL & LOCAL DESIGN OF COMMUNITIES

CCAT:

- **Supports policies that ensure the efficient delivery of community services** in collaboration with state and federal partners that meet local needs.
- **Opposes mandates for services delivery** that are not supported with commensurate, adequate financial resources.

2018 POLICY PRIORITY: *Oil and Gas Development & Impact on Local Communities*

CCAT urges strengthening state-level safeguards and standards related to oil and gas development to ensure public health, safety and welfare, and expand the authority of local governments to oversee oil and gas development in alignment with community needs and desires.

Oil and gas development is an intensive industrial activity that has resulted in recent accidents and deaths, and that can have significant impacts on the environment and climate, public health, property values, and quality of life. Conflicts and concerns have skyrocketed in recent years as the size, density and intensity of drilling proposals near homes, schools and waterways has grown.

1. **Affirm and expand the authority of counties and municipalities** to regulate land use activities of the oil and gas industry, including through the use of zoning powers, and to clarify that state regulations in this arena are minimum standards that local governments can strengthen as needed to address local concerns, conditions and desires.
2. **Review Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) rules to ensure they adequately prioritize public health and safety.** The Colorado Court of Appeals decision in *Martinez v. COGCC* ruled that COGCC’s statutory mission “mandates that the development of oil and gas in Colorado be regulated subject to the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, including protection of the environment and wildlife resources.”
3. **Require mapping of all oil and gas facilities**, wells and pipelines, including existing, abandoned and orphaned infrastructure, and making that information available to state and local governments.
4. **Increase leak detection and repair requirements**, especially for smaller oil and gas facilities to ensure better enforcement of public safety testing of existing and plugged and abandoned pipelines and other facilities.

5. **Reform the practice of forced pooling** to significantly raise the percentage of participation required before forced pooling is allowed, require annual reporting on the magnitude of people and mineral rights impacted, and increase notification and response times.
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PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS

CCAT:

- **Supports policy to manage public lands and natural resources** while balancing diverse needs and rights of community stakeholders. Specifically,
 - **Preserving open spaces** for recreation use, wildlife habitat, and sustainability of our agricultural heritage; and,
 - **Managing our wildland urban interface area** for both fire preparedness and healthy forests.
- **Opposes efforts for the** disposal, transfer, sale or conversion of federal public lands to state, local or private ownership.

Public lands provide irreplaceable economic, environmental, ecological, recreational and health benefits to our citizens and visitors. Federal public lands are open to the public while only 20% of Colorado State-owned lands are open to the public. Federal public land transfers would have long-term detrimental impacts to our local economies, environment and headwaters, employment and quality of life. The Colorado outdoor recreation industry generates roughly \$13 billion in consumer spending; 125,000 direct jobs; \$4 billion in wages and salaries; and \$0.9 billion in state/local tax revenue. 95% of Coloradans visited Colorado's 22.9 million acres of federal public lands in 2014.

2018 Policy Priority: *Protect Federal Lands & Recreation Management*

CCAT urges the retention of Colorado's federal public lands as federal public lands.

1. **Provide needed funding** to federal land agencies that allows for upkeep of public assets and completion of decades-long deferred maintenance projects.
2. **Eliminate United States Forest Service fund transfers** for fire-fighting, to retain vital operations funding.
3. **Provide permanent full funding of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools programs**, which serve to partially replace funds counties need to provide essential services including education, public safety, and environmental stewardship.