



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

### *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 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.

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For more information on these or other CCAT issues, please contact Aponte & Busam Public Affairs  
Ruth Aponte (303) 907-1980 ♦ Sara Odendahl (303) 506-2348 ♦ Kachina Weaver (303) 883-7076

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 so 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.