THE GLASS IS HALF FULL IN COLORADO

by Andrew Romanoff
Speaker of the House
Colorado H.D. 6

The recent recession took a heavy toll on Colorado. In just three years, we fell from 2nd in the nation in job growth to 49th. Our state lost 115,000 jobs and a billion dollars in revenues.

The result: deep cuts to core services. Higher education lost 20 percent of its general-fund support. Transportation lost 35 percent. Funding for the Department of Public Health and Environment was sliced in half.

Continued on page 8

REFERENDA C & D moves COLORADO FORWARD

by Dr. Al Yates
Former President Colorado State University

Coloradoans will soon be voting on one of the most important ballot issues in our state's history. The November ballot will simply read Referenda C and D, but the much larger question within these two issues is how Colorado invests for a strong economy and provides quality education and health care for its citizens.

Colorado was hit hard during the recent recession. A sluggish national recovery, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, drought and wildfires led to 115,000 lost jobs and

Talk about having water on the brain

by Erin McIntyre
Ute Water Conservancy District

By the end of the Children’s Water Festival at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, nearly 2,000 fifth-graders had it everywhere. They kissed endangered fish and built dams. They stood inside opalescent bubbles and learned about what a mess can happen without backflow prevention. They peered through microscopes at the critters that can make you sick if water isn’t treated correctly, and learned what causes tsunamis and flash floods.

The festival has become a legend of sorts to fifth-graders in Mesa County during its 12-year tenure. Teachers start asking about registration for the festival in October, though the festival is held in May.

It was inspired by the Nebraska Groundwater Foundation’s water festival, and Tom Cech of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District brought the idea to Colorado.

Continued on page 3
Yates: Move forward, cont.

Continued from page 1

$1 billion cut from state spending. Jobs disappeared in our most important industries - technology, agriculture, tourism and construction. State spending cuts will have a severe impact on road and bridge repairs and negatively impacted the health of our communities. To illustrate the impacts of the cuts, consider the following examples:

Eighty percent of funding for "Read to Achieve" has been cut since 2003 and 20,000 fewer students will receive this important educational support.

8,779 Coloradans with developmental disabilities currently are on waiting lists for services from service providers, according to the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Senior Coloradans have lost more than $50 million per year in property-tax relief.

State support for higher education has dropped 21.3 percent since 2001, while tuition increases continue to outpace inflation.

Like every other state, Colorado's economy is recovering. All across our country, people are returning to work, and state governments are investing increased revenues in their economies.

But Colorado, unlike its 49 counterparts, is severely limited in its ability to recover and invest in the future due to restrictions imposed by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. So, although our economy is recovering, Colorado may be forced to rebate billions of dollars - which at the same time further limiting state investments and services.

Much of this situation is due to TABOR's ratcheting effect, an unintended provision within this constitutional amendment that does not allow the state to recover from an economic downturn.

Consider this analogy of how TABOR operates when the economy rebounds. Think of Dillon Reservoir two years ago during the height of the drought. Water levels had receded, making it an ever-dwindling water supply source. Today, thanks to a wet season, Dillon is full. If you applied TABOR's revenue limitations to Dillon Reservoir today, the reservoir would only be able to impound up to 6 percent of the water captured above the drought levels from two years ago.

The rest of the water would have to be spilled down river for use by Nevada and California. That is a situation our state cannot afford - just as we cannot afford any further cuts to our communities, colleges, programs for the developmentally disabled and the safety of our roads - all of which will occur in Colorado. Do not take action and address this issue by voting Yes on Referenda C and D - Colorado's Economic Recovery Plan on November 1.

Without raising taxes, Referenda C and D provide a temporary timeout from TABOR that allows Colorado to retain revenue and invest in critical areas: Fifty-five road and bridge projects across Colorado; increased funding for textbooks and in-classroom instruction in K-12 education; more money for financial aid for Coloradans seeking a college degree, and much needed funding for health care.

Since 1992 when the TABOR amendment passed, more than 700 cities, counties, school districts and special districts have asked voters to suspend revenue limits to allow dollars to be earmarked for specific projects. This time it is the state that is asking, and it is all within the confines of what the TABOR amendment allows government to do.

It does not take a highly trained economist to realize that continually cutting state services is bad for economic growth and bad for Colorado. Potential employers will simply avoid Colorado when they realize that the state is preparing for further reductions in critical state services. And the quality of life for many Coloradans will surely worsen as education support, health care and other important services are reduced or eliminated.

We must do better.

The investment our state makes in health care, education and transportation is a determining factor in retaining jobs and attracting new employers. Colorado is in perpetual competition with other states and other countries for these jobs, and wise investment choices will level the playing field and increase our competitiveness.

Attracting new jobs in this environment is a dynamic process that demands continual investment in our state's future. Staying competitive requires a transportation infrastructure that allows businesses to quickly ship goods. It hinges on education system that provides a broad spectrum of skilled workers. Competitiveness is enhanced by healthy communities where employees and their families have access to quality health care.

In summary, without Referenda C and D, Colorado will continue to cut essential state services and face an uncertain economic future. A college education will be out of reach for many middle class Colorado; more than 700 cities, counties, school districts and special districts have answered with a resounding Yes. Referenda C and D will continue to outpace national.

Editorial boards, the General Assembly, Gov. Bill Owens and more than 600 organizations from across Colorado - including the Colorado Water Congress - have already signed on in support of Referenda C and D, and the list grows daily.

After enduring the most severe recession in recent memory, Colorado must now take deliberate steps to rebuild the critical services - education, health care and transportation - that support and enhance our quality of life, attract high-paying jobs and move Coloradons economy forward.

Colorado's Economic Recovery Plan allows our state to attain this critical goal.

Now is the time for action. Referenda C and D are critical to Colorado's future. We have to deliver this important message to our families, friends and neighbors - a task that needs your support and active involvement.

Dr. Al Yates is the former president of Colorado State University. He serves as a co-chair of the Vote Yes on C&D campaign.

Have you changed your E-mail address and / or location?

Please notify CWC at macravey@cowatercongress.org when you change e-mail or other mailing addresses.
Since it began, the Children's Water Festival in Mesa County has grown more than 150 volunteers annually, who teach classes, display interactive exhibits and help guide classes around the campus.

Real-life water experts donate two days of their time to share a lifetime of knowledge with the students. Chemists from water treatment plants teach students about micro-organisms that live in water. Colorado Division of Wildlife managers teach students about how salmon use smell to migrate to their home streams to reproduce. Firemen let students blast water from their hoses, and boaters teach them about the importance of water safety. Crews from water-distribution systems teach students how they hook up new lines and set up wet taps.

The event is the second-largest water festival in Colorado.

The fifth-graders are able to retain an amazing amount of information about water after all the fun spent at the festival. Days after the event, some classes filled out voluntary evaluations and were asked, "List one or more important fact about water that you learned at the festival."

Here's exactly what some said:

"In the snag (sic) treatment plant there are little bugs that clean the water for them." - "Soap can break water's surface tension." - "The water that goes down the drain, we use again." - "Micro-organisms help clean water." - "I learned that they put fluoride and chlorine in the water." - "Hawaii gets 460 inches of rain." - "Water goes into the clouds and when they can't hold any more it snows or rains."

Having the festival at Mesa State College introduces students to the prospects of higher education. For many students, the festival gives them the first opportunity to visit the campus. They interact with college students attending summer school and have the opportunity to meet a few professors, two of which teach Water Festival classes.

The festival not only brings together students from Loma to Parachute, it also brings together water providers, irrigators and water experts to accomplish a common goal - instilling an understanding of water issues and heritage in students.

Ute Water Conservancy District organizes the festival, which is funded by donations from the Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Valley Water Users Association, Grand Valley Irrigation Co., Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, Mesa County Business Education Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, and other organizations. Clifton Water District, the City of Grand Junction and Ute Water split costs which aren't covered by donations after the festival is complete.

Erin McIntyre handles public relations for Ute Water Conservancy District and survived her first water festival this year. If you would like more information about starting a water festival or would like to participate in the 13th Annual Children's Water Festival in Grand Junction in May 2006, contact her at emcintyre@utewater.org or (970) 242-7491. The Colorado Foundation for Water Education is also an excellent resource, at www.cfwe.org.
ANNOUNCEMENT

CSU WATER DIALOGUE
Creating and Sustaining Constructive Conversations about Water

Sponsored by:
Colorado State University Water Center
Colorado Water Congress
Colorado Institute for Public Policy at CSU
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

December 13, 2005
Lory Student Center
Colorado State University

As the 21st century began in semi-arid Colorado, the State was gripped by a drought that magnified already stiff competition for water supplies. The competition, to date, has, in the minds of some water users, resulted in gridlock in new water developments. Resolving water disputes and conflicts, in mutually acceptable ways, is of increasing interest to many Colorado citizens and the Colorado Legislature, as witnessed by passage of the Interbasin Compacts bill (HB 1177) in the 2005 Session. In the spirit of enhancing water communication in Colorado, Colorado State University (CSU), with its long and rich traditions in water education, research and outreach, is organizing a one-day CSU Water Dialogue on December 13, 2005, on the CSU campus in Fort Collins.

The purpose of the CSU Water Dialogue is to examine rapid changes taking place in our society and the resulting impacts and pressures on Colorado’s limited water resources; establish common points of discussion; and suggest ways to facilitate constructive dialogues about the future of water supplies in Colorado. It is anticipated that the CSU Water Dialogue, and its proceedings, will help foster constructive dialogue in the Water Roundtables currently being organized and initiated in Colorado.

The Water Dialogue program is divided into two major segments: morning sessions focusing on current efforts to enhance water negotiations and dialogue, both within Colorado and between Colorado and the Federal government; and afternoon sessions that highlight the experiences of higher education faculty and key water leaders in enriching Colorado water dialogues in a constructive manner.

For more information on the program and registration procedures, see the CWRR webpage: cwrr@colostate.edu

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REVISITING COLORADO WATER LAW ISSUES

A classic video of six distinguished members of the water legal community is now available for purchase. The six members are: Andy Williams, Dick Bratton, Robert F. Welborn, Jack Ross, John M. Sayres, and David Robbins for Sam Maynes on the Animas LaPlata. This is an incredible historical video that provides some remarkable insights in Colorado water issues.

VHS video tapes of this panel six water experts is available as follows:
1) CWC members who attended the workshop may purchase the tapes for $80.00.
2) Other CWC members may purchase the tapes for $125.00.
3) Non-members may purchase the tapes for $200.00.

These prices do not include appropriate tax and postage, handling.
Committee Members to Attend: Senator Jim Isgar, Chairman, Representative Kathleen Curry, Vice-Chair (Thursday and Friday), Representatives Diane Hoppe, and Mary Hodge, Senators Joan Fitz-Gerald (Wednesday and Thursday), Lewis H. Entz and Jack Taylor.

Staff to Attend: David Beauson and Marc Carey, Legislative Council Staff, 303-866-3521 or cell during tour only, 303-807-7446; Tom Morris, Office of Legislative Legal Services, 303-866-2045.

Transportation sponsors: Transportation provided on chartered bus sponsored by Colorado Water Congress, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Yampa Water Conservation District, Northern Colorado Water Conservation District, Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority, Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District, Parker Water and Sanitation District, MWH Americas, and Middle Park Water Conservancy District.

Tuesday, August 23, 2005 – Main stem of the Colorado River and Upper Yampa River Basins

8:00 a.m. Depart from the east side of the Colorado State Capitol (200 East Colfax), Grant Street side on a Ramblin Express bus. Two hour drive to next stop.

10:00 a.m. Arrive at Stanley W. Cazier’s law office in the Town of Granby (629-95 U.S. Highway 40) to pick up presenters and passengers including Senators Isgar and Taylor and Dick MacRyve, Eric Wilkinson, Brian Werner, and Noble Underbink. Fifteen minute drive to next stop.

10:30 a.m. Arrive for one hour tour of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project’s Furt Pumping Plant (north shore of Lake Granby). Presenter: Eric Wilkinson, General Manager, Northern Colorado Water Conservation District.

11:45 a.m. Arrive at the west portal of the Alva B. Adams Tunnel on Grand Lake (off Highway 34). Box lunch provided by Middle Park Water Conservation District (approximately 30 minute stop). Presenter: Eric Wilkinson, General Manager, Northern Colorado Water Conservation District. One hour drive to next stop.

2:00 p.m. Arrive for one hour at the Wolford Mountain Reservoir (Highway 40, west of Town of Kremmling). Presenter: David Merrit, Chief Engineer, Colorado River Water Conservation District. One hour and 15 minute drive to next stop.

4:15 p.m. Arrive in Town of Toponas (Highway 131) via Gore Pass 9 Highway 134) to pick up presenters for on-bus discussion concerning Yampa River water issues. Presenters: Glenn Porzak, Porzak, Browning & Johnson, LLP, and Margaret O’Donnell. One hour drive to Steamboat Springs.

5:30 p.m. Arrive at the Sheraton Steamboat Resort and Conference Center (220 Village Inn Court).

Wednesday, August 24, 2005 – Yampa and White River Basins

8:00 a.m. Depart from Steamboat Sheraton Hotel and Resort and tour proposed white water park and other facilities near Steamboat Springs en route to Elkhead Reservoir. Presenter: Tom Sharp, Attorney with Sharp, Steinke & Sherman, LLC.

9:30 a.m. Arrive Elkhead Reservoir for one hour presentation from the Colorado River Water Conservation District on the reservoir’s expansion project (off Highway 40, west of Town of Hayden). Presenters: David Merrit, Chief Engineer, and Dan Birch, Colorado River Water Conservation District. Fifteen minute drive to pick up in Craig.

10:45 a.m. Pick up Frank Cooley at Craig Holiday Inn (300 South Highway 13). Fifty minute drive to next stop.

11:35 a.m. Arrive at Rio Blanco County courthouse (555 Main Street, Town of Meeker) for 30 minute rest stop and to pick up Leona Hemmerich, Lance Stewart, and James Thurman. Box lunch provided en route to next stop, sponsored by Parker Water and Sanitation District. One hour and 15 minute drive to next stop; west on Highway 64 to County Road 5. En route, the bus stopped at an outcrop of oil shale.

1:15 p.m. Arrive at Shell Oil Company’s oil-shale research facility (on County Road 24) for one hour and 15 minute tour and presentation on oil shale development. Presenters: Frank Cooley, Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District and James Thurman, Shell Oil Company. One hour and 15 minute drive to next stop via County Road 24X. En route to next stop, presentation made by Lance Stewart, City Administrator, Town of Rangely, about water and other issues affecting the Rangely area. Thirty mile drive to next stop.

3:45 p.m. Arrive Town of Rangely to drop off riders. Twenty miles and 40 minutes to next stop.

4:30 p.m. Arrive in Town of Dinosaur for 45 minute rest stop and presentation on economic issues affecting the Dinosaur area. Presenter: Leona Hemmerich, Dinosaur Chamber of Commerce. Two hours and 30 minute drive to Steamboat Springs. Box dinner provided in the Maybelle Park by Moffat County.

8:00 p.m. Arrive at the Sheraton Steamboat Resort and Conference Center (220 Village Inn Court).

Thursday, August 25 – Committee Meeting, Colorado Water Congress Summer Convention, and Upper Yampa River Basin

8:00 a.m. Meeting of the Water Resources Review Committee (see tentative agenda at the end of this itinerary).

10:40 a.m. Recess.

2:00 p.m. Tour of Stagecoach Reservoir and other water facilities in the Steamboat Springs area. Presenter: John Fetcher, General Manager, Upper Yampa Water Conservation District.

4:00 p.m. Return to Sheraton Steamboat Resort and Conference Center.

Friday, August 26, 2005 – Morning Session of Colorado Water Congress Summer Convention

9:00 a.m. Colorado River Issues and Developments in the Statewide Water Supply Investigation – David Robbins, President of Colorado Water Congress, president.

- Background on Colorado River Negotiations – Rod Kuharich, Director of the Colorado Water conservation Board (CWC);
- Colorado River Accounting Using the Colorado River Decision Support System
- Panel Discussion of Colorado River Issues – Rod Kuharich, Director of CWC, and other members.
- Update on Statewide Water Supply Investment

12:15 p.m. Lunch and Presentation on National Water Issues

- Norm Semanko, President, National Water Resources Association

2:00 p.m. Depart for Denver

5:00 p.m. Arrive at the State Capitol Building.

Tentative Agenda

Water Resources Review Committee

I. Call to Order

II. Panel Discussion on Recreational In-channel Diversions

- David Robbins, Hill & Robbins, President of the Colorado Water Congress;
- Glenn Porzak, Porzak, Browning & Johnson, LLP;
- Tom R. Sharp, Sharp, Steinke & Sherman, LLC;
- Ann Castle, Holland & Hart, representing Pueblo;
- Andrea Benson, Alperstein & Covell, P.C.; and
- Sara Duncan, Denver Water

III. Public Testimony – time permitting

IV. Adjourn
Legislative Tour - Northwestern Colorado

by Senator Jim Isgar

On August 23, 24 and 25, 2005 members of the Colorado Legislature, members of Legislative Staff and guests participated in a tour of Northwestern Colorado projects and sites. This tour provided an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the various river basins, the associated interstate compacts and laws governing the operation of key water facilities and critical water issues facing the state of Colorado. The sequence of events is noted on page 5.
The panel on the key subject, Recreational In-Channel Diversions (RICD): (L to R) Sara Duncan, Denver Water; Glenn Porzak, Porzak, Browning & Johnson, LLP; Ann Castle, Holland & Hart, LLP; David Robbins, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Andrea Benson, Alperstein & Covell, P.C.; and Tom Sharp, Sharp, Steinek & Sherman, LLC.

Joe Blake, Co-Chair of “Vote YES on C & D” delivers several major points on C & D.

Audience listens to the RICD discussions.

Eric Wilkinson of the Northern Colorado W.C. D. addresses the Committee on RICD.

Russ George, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources addresses the audience on some key points. (L to R) Russ George, David Robbins and Ag Commissioner Don Ament.

Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff hits some key points on Referendum C & D.

The Audience paid very close attention to the Thursday Luncheon Speakers (Andrew Romanoff and Joe Blake).
Colorado Water Rights
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006

10:00 a.m. Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

8:00 a.m. Colorado Water Conservation Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. CWC Board of Directors' Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

THEME:
"My support of reclamation can be best explained by saying it makes the desert bloom." – Wayne N. Aspinall

7:30 a.m. Registration Opens

8:30 a.m. Five Concurrent Workshops – i.e., (1) To Be Announced; (2) Engineering & Management Developments; (3) CU Workshop; (4) CSU Workshop; and, (5) Engineering & Management Developments.

10:15 a.m. Five Concurrent Workshops – i.e., (1) Engineering & Management Developments; (2) Engineering & Management Developments; (3) Water Education; (4) Water Conservation/Conservancy District Issues; and (5) To Be Announced.

12:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION LUNCHEON: “To Be Announced” – Honorable Hank Brown, President, University of Colorado Systems

2:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION I Keynote: “To Be Announced” – Dr. Larry E. Penley, President, Colorado State University

2:45 p.m. “To Be Announced” – Sue Mencer, former Director, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

3:15 p.m. “To Be Announced” – Sam Mamet, Executive Director, Colorado Municipal League

3:45 p.m. “To Be Announced” – Frank Yaeger, District Manager, Parker Water and Sanitation District

4:15 p.m. Five Concurrent Workshops – i.e., (1) Engineering & Management Developments; (2) CWC: Statewide Water Supply Initiative – Status Update; (3) Ground Water Issues; (4) Water Quality & Drinking Water Issues; and (5) To Be Announced.

6:00 p.m. RECEPTION – Music by “Reckless Abandon”

7:30 p.m. BANQUET – “Goodbye Dick”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

7:00 a.m. LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST – Speakers will be Senators Joan Fitz-Gerald, Lewis H. Eatz, Jack Taylor,
2006 CWC CONVENTION ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Holiday Inn – Denver International Airport Hotel & John Q. Hammons Convention Center
15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO
January 26 & 27, 2006

NAME: ____________________________
ORGANIZATION: _____________________
ADDRESS: __________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP: ______________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____________________

REGISTRATION: INVOICE / STATEMENT
No pre-registration by FAX without payment. Rate before date as shown below is required for registration.

Registration for January 26 & 27, 2006

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MEALS - NOT INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION
(3) Thursday Lunch, January 26, 2006, at $ 24.00 each
(4) Thursday Banquet, January 26, 2006, at $ 35.00 each
(4) Friday Breakfast, January 27, 2006 at $ 17.00 each
(5) Friday Lunch, January 27, 2006 at $ 23.00 each

TOTAL Registration and Meals $________

Registration and meal refunds will be made less a $ 60 handling fee only if the CWC staff is notified by no later than 12:00 Noon, Monday, January 2, 2006. There are no refunds authorized by the Board after the aforementioned time and date. Meal tickets — if available — must be purchased by not later than 5 hours before meal event. CWC accepts checks or cash only.

Return this upper form to:
Colorado Water Congress
1580 Logan Street, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203
or fax to:
(303)837-1607
Or E-Mail:
macravey@cowatercongress.org

DEADLINE FOR FINAL ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS JANUARY 14, 2006

DETACH AND MAIL THIS LOWER FORM DIRECTLY TO:
HOLIDAY INN DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PLEASE DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

ATTENDING: COLORADO WATER CONGRESS
DATE: JANUARY 26-27, 2006
PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING: (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________ State: ________ Zip: ________
Sharing room with: ______________________

PLEASE INCLUDE FIRST NIGHTS DEPOSIT OR USE YOUR CREDIT CARD TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION.

Card Number: __________________________ Expiration Date: ________________
Name: _____________________________ Signature: _________________

(AS PRINTED ON CARD)

(REFUNDABLE IF RESERVATION IS CANCELLED BY 6:00 P.M. ON THE DAY OF ARRIVAL.)

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED RATE AND ROOM TYPE BELOW:

ACCOMMODATION
SINGLE: (one person) $ 79.00
DOUBLE: (two persons) $ 99.00
HOTEL TELEPHONE: (303)371-9494. RATES DO NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX.
ARRIVAL DATE: ___________ (CHECK IN TIME: 4:00 P.M.)
DEPARTURE DATE: ___________ (CHECK OUT TIME: 11:00 A.M.)

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 5* TO ENSURE RATE AND AVAILABILITY.
Continued from page 1

That's bad news if you happen to live here.

Beyond the border, though, Colorado's economic woes are cause for celebration.

A UNIQUE DILEMMA

The governor of Arizona paid a visit to Denver in August. I asked her what she thought of our fiscal crisis.

"I'm delighted," Gov. Janet Napolitano said. "My state is competing with yours for jobs. Your cuts have allowed us to catch up."

The governor wasn't joking.

Many corners of the American economy are recovering from the recession. State revenues are slowly rising - returning, in some cases, to their pre-recessionary levels.

In Colorado, the glass is half full. Job growth has inched up, and Coloradans are earning more money. But unlike every other state in the union, Colorado is prohibited from using most of this new revenue to strengthen its schools, repair its roads, or provide health care to its citizens.

That's because of a flawed spending limit in our state constitution. This formula bases the amount the state can spend each year on how much it took in the previous year - even if the previous year was a disaster.

The effect is a "ratcheting-down" of state services. Not only are we forced to slash services during an economic downturn, just like every other state, but we are effectively prevented from restoring them. Even as the economy turns around, Coloradans are trapped at a recessionary level of funding.

Our population is growing. Our costs are climbing. But our schools, our roads, and our health care system are stuck four years behind the times.

That might not be a problem - if it weren't for Arizona, and Texas, and the rest of our rivals. As Colorado staggers to its feet, other states are moving forward. They are making the sorts of investments - in their human and physical infrastructure - that employers value. In the race for good jobs, Colorado is poised to lose ground.

"INVEST IN EDUCATION"

How do we bring more good jobs to Colorado? Our state enjoys several advantages. We boast more natural beauty and a higher quality of life than virtually any other place in America.

But in order to woo top employers, it is not enough to be prettier than every other state. We have to be smarter, too.

Colorado has long succeeded in importing skilled workers. We have the nation's second rate of college enrollment and a higher quality of life than virtually any other place in America.

Amanda, like other leading employers, draws brainspower from our public universities. Double-digit cuts have undermined these institutions' ability to attract and retain top-notch faculty and students. Some community college leaders say they may be forced to close their campuses if cuts continue.

These trends are particularly troubling in an increasingly international economy. Colorado's rivals now include not only other states but also other countries. Toyota, for example, chose Ohio to build its new sport utility vehicles, citing the superior quality of the Canadian workforce.

A FRUGAL SOLUTION

Fortunately, an economic recovery plan is at hand. A pair of measures on the November ballot will allow Coloradans to shore up our schools and colleges, fix our roads and bridges, and provide medical aid to our most vulnerable residents.

Referendum C asks voters for permission to invest "excess" state revenues in education and health care.

Referendum D would expedite a set of transportation and school construction projects and complete payment on police and fire pension plans.

These proposals have won the support of the Colorado Water Congress, Governor Bill Owens, more than two-thirds of the General Assembly, and every major business organization in Colorado.

These groups recognize Referenda C and D as a frugal solution to our state's fiscal crisis.

Here's what the ballot measures do not do:

Colorado could become the biotech capital of America.

"Invest in education," he said. "Why would we go to a state that's defunding its education system when we could go to one that's upgrading it?"

Amgen, like other leading employers, draws brainspower from our public universities. Double-digit cuts have undermined these institutions' ability to attract and retain top-notch faculty and students. Some community college leaders say they may be forced to close their campuses if cuts continue.

These trends are particularly troubling in an increasingly international economy. Colorado's rivals now include not only other states but also other countries. Toyota, for example, chose Ohio to build its new sport utility vehicles, citing the superior quality of the Canadian workforce.

Referenda C and D do not increase the tax rate. In fact, beginning in 2011 and in each year thereafter, the state income tax rate will fall from 4.63 percent to 4.5 percent, if revenues are sufficient.

Referenda C and D do not tap income tax refunds. Coloradans who overpay their state or federal income taxes will continue to receive these refunds, whether or not C and D pass.

Referenda C and D do not change the state constitution. These measures enlist a mechanism already in the constitution, just as Colorado's cities and counties have done hundreds of times.

Over the next few weeks, Coloradans will have ample opportunity to discuss the appropriate level of state services. That can be a useful and important debate.

We can take some pride in knowing that our state budget is considerably leaner than the national average. We maintain one of the lowest state tax rates in the nation. We spend a smaller share of our income on welfare than all but one other state. In the contest to limit government, our state is winning.

At the same time, though, another contest is taking shape - one whose outcome is critical to Colorado's future. In an economic competition, we cannot afford to stand still.

Referenda C and D will allow our state to rebound from the last recession without lifting the lid on government spending. A "yes" vote is the best way for Colorado to regain its leadership in job growth - and leave Arizona in the dust.

Andrew Romanoff (H.D. 6) is the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives.

Colorado Water Rights
1580 Logan Street, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203

ASPINALL AWARD NOMINATIONS & WATER LAW SCHOLARSHIPS

If interested, the following forms for your completion and return to the Colorado Water Congress office are available:

1. Nomination form for the 2007 Wayne N. Aspinal Water Leader of the Year Award.
2. Ed Bonser, W.D. Farr, John R. Fetcher, Frank Milenski and Bart Woodward Scholarship (for an active member of the agricultural community) for 2006 - Colorado Water Law Seminar.
4. Bill Hornby (for either a journalism student or a reporter of a news media organization) Journalist Scholarship for 2006 - Colorado Water Law Seminar.
5. Larry D. Simpson, Ralph Adkins and John R. Fetcher (for either an engineering student or a non-partner of an engineering firm) Engineering Scholarship for 2006 - Colorado Water Law Seminar.

Referrands C and D do not increase the tax rate.

Referrands C and D do not increase the tax rate. In fact, beginning in 2011 and in each year thereafter, the state income tax rate will fall from 4.63 percent to 4.5 percent, if revenues are sufficient.

Colorado's future. In an economic competition, we cannot afford to stand still.

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