

**HOUSE JOURNAL**  
**SIXTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**STATE OF COLORADO**  
**First Regular Session**

Second Legislative Day

Thursday, January 11, 2007

1     Prayer by the Reverend Chris Gilmore, United Church of Christ, Boulder.

2  
3     The Speaker called the House to order at 9:30 a.m.

4  
5     Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Casso.

6  
7     The roll was called with the following result:

8  
9              Present--63.  
10             Excused--Representatives McGihon, Pommer--2.  
11             Present after roll call--Representatives McGihon, Pommer.

12  
13     The Speaker declared a quorum present.

14  
15  
16     On motion of Representative Rice, the reading of the journal of  
17     January 10, 2007, was declared dispensed with and approved as corrected  
18     by the Chief Clerk.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

22  
23  
24     HR07-1002 by Representative(s) Jahn, Gallegos, Hicks, Kerr J.--  
25             Concerning employees and positions for the House of  
26             Representatives convened in the First Regular Session of  
27             the Sixty-sixth General Assembly.

28  
29     (Printed and placed in member's file.)

30  
31     On motion of Representative Jahn, the resolution was **adopted** by **viva  
voce** vote.

32  
33  
34     Co-sponsors added: Representatives Benefield, Fischer, Gagliardi, Gibbs,  
35     Hodge, Kefalas, Liston, Looper, Madden, McFadyen, Peniston, Rose, Stafford.

36  
37     HR07-1003 by Representative(s) Jahn, Gallegos, Hicks, Kerr J.--  
38             Concerning payment of employees for pre-session work  
39             for the House of Representatives convened in the First  
40             Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly.

41  
42     (Printed and placed in members file)

1 On motion of Representative Jahn, the resolution was **adopted** by **viva  
2 voce** vote.

3  
4 Co-sponsors added: Representatives Benefield, Carroll T, Casso, Fischer,  
5 Gagliardi, Green, Hodge, Kefalas, Kerr A, Labuda, Madden, McFadyen,  
6 Merrifield, Mitchell.

7  
8 **HR07-1004** by Representative(s) Jahn, Gallegos, Hicks, Kerr J.--  
9 Concerning the Chaplain position in the House of  
10 Representatives.

11  
12 (Printed and placed in members file)

13  
14 On motion of Representative Jahn, the resolution was **adopted** by **viva  
15 voce** vote.

16  
17 Co-sponsors added: Representatives Benefield, Butcher, Gibbs, Kerr A, King,  
18 Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Lundberg, Madden, Massey, McNulty,  
19 Rice, Roberts, Rose, Stafford, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Vaad.

20  
21 **HJR07-1003** by Representative(s) Gardner C and Gallegos and  
22 McKinley; also Senator(s) Brophy, Kester--Concerning  
23 emergency assistance to agricultural and livestock  
24 producers in southeastern Colorado.

25  
26 (Printed and placed in members file)

27  
28 On motion of Representative Gardner C, the resolution was **adopted** by  
29 **viva voce** vote.

30  
31 Co-sponsors added: Roll Call of the House.

32  
33 **HJR07-1004** by Representative(s) Gardner C., Butcher, Curry, Hodge,  
34 White; also Senator(s) Fitz-Gerald, Isgar, Taylor--  
35 Concerning a request that Congress support the federal  
36 "Rural Colorado Water Infrastructure Act".

37  
38 (Printed and placed in members file)

39  
40 Laid over until January 12, retaining place on Calendar.  
41

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42  
43 House in recess. House reconvened.  
44

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45  
46 **MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

47  
48 The Senate voted to recall SJR07-004 for purposes of reconsideration,  
49 and requests the return of the bill.

50  
51  
52 The Senate has adopted and returns herewith: HJR07-1002. Pursuant to  
53 the resolution, the President appointed Senators Morse and May.

54  
55

1 The Senate has adopted and transmits herewith: SJR07-003. Pursuant to  
2 the resolution, the President appointed Senators Shaffer and Kester.  
3

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6 **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION**

7 **SJR07-003** by Senator(s) Gordon, Fitz-Gerald, McElhany; also  
8 Representative(s) Madden, Romanoff, May M.--  
9 Concerning a joint session of the Senate and the House of  
10 Representatives for the purpose of hearing a message from  
11 the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and appointing a  
12 committee to escort the Chief Justice.  
13

14 (Printed and placed in members file)  
15

16 On motion of Representative Madden, the rules were suspended and the  
17 resolution given immediate consideration.  
18

19 On motion of Representative Madden the resolution was **adopted** by  
20 **viva voce** vote.  
21

22 The Speaker appointed Representatives Carroll T, Merrifield and Witwer  
23 pursuant to the resolution.  
24

25 Co-sponsors added: Representatives Benefield, McFadyen.  
26

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27 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

28 The Senate has adopted and returns herewith: HJR07-1003.  
29

30 The Senate has readopted and transmits herewith: SJR07-004, amended  
31 as printed in Senate Journal, January 11, 2007.  
32

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33 **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION**

34 **SJR07-004** by Senator(s) Gordon, Fitz-Gerald, McElhany; also  
35 Representative(s) Jahn, Gallegos, Hicks, Kerr J.--  
36 Concerning employee salary ranges for the First Regular  
37 Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly.  
38

39 (Printed and placed in members file)  
40

41 On motion of Representative Madden, the rules were suspended and the  
42 resolution given immediate consideration.  
43

44 On motion of Representative Madden, the resolution was **adopted** by  
45 **viva voce** vote.  
46

47 Co-sponsor added: Representative Benefield.  
48

---

49 House in recess for Joint Session.  
50

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51

**JOINT SESSION**

1  
2  
3 The Joint Session was called to order by the Speaker of the House,  
4 Romanoff.

5  
6 On motion of Senator Veiga, the morning roll call of the Senate was  
7 made the roll call of the Joint Session.

8  
9 Present--35.

10  
11 On motion of Representative Madden, the morning roll call of the House  
12 was made the roll call of the Joint Session.

13  
14 Present--65.

15  
16 The Speaker declared a quorum present and as is customary presented the  
17 gavel to the President of the Senate to preside over the joint session.

18  
19 President Fitz-Gerald requested the Joint Committee, composed of  
20 Senators Morse, May R, and Representatives Marshall, Buescher, and  
21 Stafford to escort the Governor from the Governor's Chambers to the  
22 rostrum.

23  
24 Chief Sergeant-at-Arms Suman announced the arrival of the Honorable  
25 Bill Ritter, Governor of the State of Colorado.

26  
27 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor to the rostrum where he  
28 addressed the Joint Session.

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**ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE  
Bill Ritter**

30  
31 Lieutenant Governor O'Brien, President Fitz-Gerald, Speaker Romanoff, Mayor  
32 Hickenlooper, members of the Cabinet, the state Board of Education, Supreme Court  
33 justices, Treasurer Kennedy, Attorney General Suthers, Secretary of State Coffman,  
34 Honorable Representatives and Senators, all Coloradans.

35  
36 Thank you for being here today. You are all great leaders.

37  
38 Before we begin, I want to acknowledge the *every day* leaders who are not here. Over  
39 the past few weeks, several Coloradans have been killed in action in Iraq. Over the  
40 past year, we have lost firefighters, police officers and other state employees. Let us  
41 take a moment of silence to honor their sacrifice.

42  
43 Up in the gallery today are dozens of elected leaders from around the state, new  
44 mayors and new county commissioners. Thank you for coming. As governor, I will do  
45 everything possible to communicate and partner with local government. I'm a product  
46 of local government. I understand your challenges. I look forward to building new  
47 partnerships and working together on health care, transportation, human services and  
48 many other areas. These issues will only be resolved if all levels of government are  
49 working together.

50  
51 Let me also take a minute to thank the previous legislature, former Governor Owens  
52 and former Lieutenant Governor Norton for their significant accomplishments. I hope  
53 we can keep moving forward.

1 Two short days ago I was sworn in as your new governor, and the 66<sup>th</sup> General  
2 Assembly convened just yesterday. You have less than 120 days to conduct the  
3 business of the people. There's much work to do and not very much time.  
4

5 Over the past 130 years, there has been no shortage of encouragement from the  
6 Governor to the General Assembly. John L. Routt was Colorado's very first governor  
7 after statehood. In 1876 he told the legislature:

8     9 "The people, by their choice, have signified their faith in your wisdom, integrity and  
10 patriotism, and I feel assured that their confidence will not have been misplaced."  
11

12 I share that same sense of hope and confidence. I call it the Colorado Promise – the  
13 promise of creating a better Colorado for our children and our grandchildren. The  
14 promise of a brighter tomorrow, a new direction.  
15

## 16 **I. State of the People**

17 Since I'm your new governor, this won't be as much a "State of State Government"  
18 speech as it will be a "State of the People" speech. I campaigned across this great state  
19 for almost two years. I visited all 64 counties, many of them many times. I talked to  
20 thousands of people and listened to their hopes, their dreams and their struggles.  
21

22 What struck me most is that the people of Colorado are optimistic. With good reason.  
23 We are home to unmatched natural beauty. We have some of the best skiing, best  
24 mountain climbing, best hunting – and speaking from experience – best fly fishing in  
25 the country. We grow some of the best crops: Palisade peaches, Olathe sweet corn,  
26 Rocky Ford cantaloupe. We know how to build things. We know how to be inventive  
27 and self-reliant. We have a frontier spirit, an entrepreneurial spirit.  
28

29 I've listened to the people of Colorado, and I've learned that Coloradans know how  
30 to solve problems.  
31

32 I listened to Ruth Ann Woods, the community college president in Trinidad who  
33 adjusted her curriculum so she could provide local natural-gas employers with better-  
34 trained welders, auto mechanics and heavy-equipment operators.  
35

36 I listened to the farmers who saw an economic opportunity to build wind farms in  
37 wheat fields.  
38

39 I listened to health-care leaders like Arnold and Marguerite Salazar in the San Luis  
40 Valley who are working on ways to provide health care to all.  
41

42 I listened to the light-rail riders who are getting out of their cars and making  
43 alternative transportation a reality in the metro area.  
44

45 I listened to people with disabilities who are raising awareness and educating us all  
46 about overcoming obstacles.  
47

48 Let us celebrate these and the many other successes that occur every day across  
49 Colorado. But let us do so with the knowledge that we face many other challenges.  
50

51 I listened to the people of Crowley County, where there are no doctors.  
52

53 I listened to working people everywhere who don't have health insurance.  
54

55

1 I listened to the people of Grand Junction who are trying to protect their watershed  
2 from the effects of oil-and-gas drilling, and I listened to the people of the Arkansas  
3 and San Luis valleys who are trying to protect their water ... *period.*

4

5 I listened to teachers at tiny Manzanola Elementary School, who struggle every day  
6 because most of their students are Spanish-speaking children of migrant workers.

7

8 I listened to them all, and they sounded a common refrain. They want us to solve  
9 problems. They want affordable health care, better schools and good jobs. They want  
10 us to protect Colorado's land, air, water and wildlife. They want us to keep Colorado's  
11 special places special. They want us to fix their roads and highways and build a  
12 transportation system for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

13

14 They also want a government that is careful with the people's money, a government  
15 that works, a government that is smart, a government that is modern. They want a  
16 government that serves all the people, not a government that serves only narrow  
17 interests. They want a government that intersects with where they struggle – and then  
18 eases those struggles.

19

20 They also want us to work together. So do I. This will be fundamental to how we build  
21 a public trust with the people of this great state every day.

22

## 23 II. **Challenge to lawmakers**

24

25 As I approach this job, I start with a simple promise to all of you: I will always listen.  
26 I will always seek your cooperation and a thoughtful commitment to meaningful  
27 solutions. We won't always see eye to eye. But from me you will always get  
28 responsible debate, not partisan rhetoric. I ask you for the same, regardless of whether  
29 there's a D or an R after your name.

30

31 We are here to solve problems. We all have jobs to do. You have districts to represent  
32 and constituents who want their voices heard. I respect that.

33

34 As governor, my district is rural and urban. It's agricultural and industrial. It is  
35 Republican, Democrat and unaffiliated. It is small business, big business and working  
36 families. It is wealthy, and it is poor. It stretches from Springfield to Cortez to  
37 Dinosaur to Julesburg and includes every community in between.

38

39 What we need from each other is an appreciation of the individual threads that make  
40 up Colorado's diverse fabric. A fabric that ultimately weaves us all together. For us  
41 to make progress here beneath the gold dome, we need to respect those varied  
42 perspectives. Because ultimately, our work is on behalf of the entire state, on behalf  
43 of *all* Coloradans.

44

45 Referendum C is a perfect example of how you as lawmakers, how our former  
46 governor, how the people of Colorado can set aside differences and work together for  
47 the betterment of the state.

48

49 It's no secret that one party holds the majority here at the Capitol. But we didn't win  
50 just for the sake of winning. For this to work, we must all govern well on behalf of the  
51 entire state, regardless of political persuasion, economic station or geographic  
52 location.

53

54 I will appoint people who take a sensible approach, people who represent a balanced  
55 diversity of Colorado faces and interests, to our boards and commissions. I will always  
56 seek the common ground for the common good.

1 I'm not big on litmus tests. But I will have one litmus test for every bill that comes to  
2 my desk, one challenge for you: "How does this create a better future for our children  
3 and our children's children?" It won't matter whether the bill originated from a  
4 Democrat or a Republican.

5

6 This century requires a creativity that most people have never experienced. It will  
7 require us to think differently about everything we do – how we power our cars, heat  
8 our homes and educate our kids. The good news is -- we in Colorado are ideally suited  
9 to succeed -- if we work at this together. We know how to solve tough problems.

10

11 And we know how to do it within the constraints of scarce financial resources. Our  
12 fiscal reality forces us to be innovative and creative. It requires careful deliberation  
13 and broad coalition-building. Because the scope of our challenges demand it. You'll  
14 hear more from me in a minute about energy, health care, transportation, economic  
15 development, education and public safety.

16

17 But we must be more thoughtful about many other areas as well. Illegal immigration  
18 remains a problem. Homeland security must also remain a priority. And we know from  
19 the recent winter storms that we need to keep our emergency rescue and road  
20 maintenance crews at the top of their game.

21

22 Fulfilling the Colorado Promise is not something we can do overnight. Not something  
23 we can do in a single legislative session. Not even something we can do in a four-year  
24 term.

25

26 It's a journey, and we can start our leg of that journey right here today by setting goals  
27 and measuring progress one legislative session at a time.

28

29 Let me now share with you my priorities for this session, for my first year and for the  
30 years to come.

31

## 32 LEGISLATIVE, POLICY AND BUDGET AGENDA

33

### 34 I. New Energy Economy

35

36 Our calling card to the 21st century must be the New Energy Economy. People all  
37 across Colorado are excited about the possibility of creating jobs, adding economic  
38 value to the state and establishing Colorado as a national leader in renewable energy.  
39 This is our chance to build a New Energy Economy in Colorado.

40

41 Fossil fuels will continue to be a major part of our energy economy. But with our  
42 abundant supplies of wind, sun and crops, renewable energy plays an important role.  
43 It's how we create new jobs and stimulate the ailing economies of the Eastern Plains  
44 and San Luis Valley. It's how we breathe new economic life into our farms. It's one  
45 way to give new economic relevance to our colleges and universities. It's how we  
46 prepare our workforce for 21<sup>st</sup> century industries.

47

48 All around the country, states are already making great headway. This means  
49 competition and urgency. Energy is today's version of the space race of the '60s and  
50 the technology race of the '80s and '90s. We have a head start because of our natural  
51 resources, our intellectual resources and our entrepreneurial spirit.

52

53 Last year, the legislature and governor wisely created the "Collaboratory," linking  
54 some of our finest research facilities – NREL, CU, CSU and Mines – to harness the  
55 tremendous intellectual power here in Colorado.

56

1 Now we must do everything possible to ensure that the futuristic technology coming  
2 from the labs and the classrooms is transferred to the marketplace. And it's already  
3 happening. Private companies are knocking on our door wanting to build the biggest  
4 wind farms and solar parks in the country right here in Colorado.

5  
6 All we're missing is a state government to lead, to inspire and to invest. If we miss this  
7 opportunity, we miss the opportunity of a lifetime. We cannot fail, so I am proposing  
8 several immediate initiatives.

9  
10 ■ By executive order, I will adopt the Western Governor's Association's recent  
11 resolution calling for a 20 percent improvement in the efficiency of electricity  
12 use statewide by 2020.

13  
14 ■ I look forward to seeing legislation co-sponsored by Senator Fitz-Gerald,  
15 Representative Cory Gardner and Representative McFadyen that will solve  
16 one of the biggest challenges when it comes to clean energy – loading it onto  
17 the grid. Getting wind energy on the wires will be one of my highest  
18 priorities.

19  
20 ■ I'm eager to see the bill from Senator Schwartz and Representative Pommer  
21 that will double the renewable energy requirements of Amendment 37.

22  
23 ■ I'm excited about the possible creation of a Colorado Clean Energy Fund that  
24 will help with the technology transfer of research to the marketplace and  
25 finally into our communities, homes and businesses.

26  
27 ■ State government also will lead by example. We must convert our vehicle  
28 fleets to hybrid or flex-fuels as they are replaced. We must increase the use  
29 of bio-fuels which are produced right here in Colorado. All new and  
30 renovated state buildings must comply with higher energy-efficiency  
31 standards and become High Performance Buildings.

32  
33 ■ Finally, each year, I will recognize the remarkable people, businesses,  
34 institutions and nonprofits who work in the renewable energy field. Today, I  
35 am happy to announce the creation of the Governor's Excellence in  
36 Renewable Energy Award.

37           **II. Health Care**

39  
40 Let's turn now to health care, one of the biggest issues facing the people of Colorado.  
41 770,000 Coloradans lack health insurance. 180,000 are children. It's unacceptable that  
42 many of our businesses can no longer afford to offer health insurance. It's morally  
43 unacceptable and it's economically unacceptable.

44  
45 Fortunately, we can do something about it.

46  
47 My long-term vision is to establish a Colorado Health Plan that provides every  
48 Coloradan with access to some basic form of health insurance and health care by 2010.  
49 I look forward to solving this crisis with the legislature and the new "208" Health  
50 Commission.

51  
52 In the short term, we can make immediate progress by joining a multi-state drug-  
53 purchasing pool, and we can do it while still protecting vulnerable populations. This  
54 will be one of my first executive orders.

1 I applaud Senator Fitz-Gerald and Representative Madden for proposing legislation  
2 to make significant health-care investments using the remaining tobacco settlement  
3 dollars. Their bill will:

4

5 Help improve health care for thousands of Colorado children.  
6 Improve mental-health services for people in jail and prison to reduce  
7 recidivism.  
8 Revitalize Colorado's commitment to investing in nurses, doctors and other  
9 health professionals.  
10 Help our local health departments protect the safety of our food, water and air.

11

12 Another immediate step: I intend to restore the eligibility requirements for state  
13 funding for pregnancy-prevention and family planning programs.

14

15 I pledge to work with the Department of Public Health and Environment, local health  
16 departments and pediatric healthcare providers to increase childhood immunization  
17 rates. I have asked Lieutenant Governor O'Brien to lead the effort to meet or exceed  
18 the federal benchmark of having 80 percent of our children immunized by 2008.

19

20 We must remain mindful of the unique health-care needs of our disabled, senior-  
21 citizen and veteran communities as we move forward with health-care reform. The  
22 same goes for those with mental-health needs: They cannot be forgotten or left behind.

23

### 24 III. **Transportation**

25

26 Like health care, on the topic of transportation we can make some immediate progress  
27 and lay the groundwork for future achievements. It is vital to the people of this state,  
28 the economy of Colorado, that we create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century transportation system.

29

30 But our transportation revenues are declining. We need to engage the people of  
31 Colorado in a very serious conversation about what sort of 21<sup>st</sup> Century transportation  
32 system they want, and how they want to pay for it.

33

34 Over the next 90 days, I will be appointing a Colorado Transportation Finance and  
35 Implementation Panel to get that conversation underway. The panel will work with  
36 CDOT and the Colorado Transportation Commission. Everything will be on the table  
37 when it comes to examining our current challenges and possible solutions. The panel's  
38 work will begin with a statewide Transportation Summit.

39

40 In the long term, I am committed to solving congestion problems on I-70. I want to see  
41 more regional projects, such as FasTracks and Go 1A in Colorado Springs. I want to  
42 see our regional airports thrive.

43

44 We must pay attention to our rural roads and highways, because something as simple  
45 as a well-paved road or a four-lane highway can be a big economic-development tool  
46 in places like La Junta and Lamar.

47

### 48 IV. **Economic Development**

49

50 Fixing our transportation system is key to our overall economic development strategy.

51

52 And I intend to serve as a very active chief marketing officer for Colorado. I plan to  
53 spend a quarter of my time improving economic opportunities for Colorado. One thing  
54 the Office of Economic Development and International Trade will do is market  
55 Colorado as *the best* state in the country to do business.

56

1 Last year, the legislature and the governor earmarked \$19 million for tourism. It's a  
2 great example of how, when we make strategic investments, the return will be multi-  
3 fold.

4

5 We need to be strategic about how we go forward. I want to see us create an  
6 economic-development plan that speaks to the different parts of the state and builds  
7 on regional partnerships.

8

9 And we need to make sure that all of our economic-development strategies are aligned  
10 with our educational programs. That will be one of the main goals of my new  
11 Colorado Jobs Cabinet.

12

13 This will be a group of senior business and leaders, along with representatives from  
14 education, economic development and workforce development agencies from around  
15 Colorado.

16

17 Their task: to make sure our economic development strategies, our educational goals  
18 and our funding mechanisms are all aligned and all geared toward preparing a modern  
19 labor force for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

20

21 **V. Education**

22

23 The best economic-development tool is a well-educated workforce. But too many of  
24 our kids are dropping out of high school. Our achievement gap is too wide, and we  
25 aren't doing enough to partner with teachers to help them improve student learning.

26

27 My goal: to start us down a 10-year path of progress. Right now, about 30 percent of  
28 Colorado high school students don't graduate. Less than half of the black, Latino and  
29 American Indian students who start high school in Colorado actually finish. *Less than*  
30 *half*.

31

32 Our goal: cut the drop-out rate in half within 10 years.

33

34 Right now, the achievement gap separating poor and minority students from more  
35 affluent and white students is about 30 percentage points on the CSAP tests. In 10  
36 years, I want that cut in half. I also want to keep the emerging technology gap from  
37 widening so we don't leave poor and rural kids behind.

38

39 These are bold and ambitious goals, and here's how we're going to get there. We're  
40 going to align our educational programs with today's competitive global marketplace.  
41 We're going to prepare our students for 21<sup>st</sup> century industries – 21<sup>st</sup> century  
42 opportunities – like renewable energy, aerospace and biomedicine.

43

44 Too many of Colorado's children aren't prepared for these jobs. The maintenance  
45 director of the state's biggest wind farm told me his Number 1 challenge is a lack of  
46 tech-savvy workers. Contractors will tell you it's not uncommon to teach young  
47 employees remedial math at construction sites because they didn't learn enough in  
48 school.

49

50 These are not isolated examples. But this is a state where opportunities abound. And  
51 it's our job to make sure our teachers, our schools and our kids can seize these  
52 opportunities. That's the Colorado Promise.

53

54 We're going to realize these opportunities by partnering with teachers, school boards,  
55 parents and students. We're going to listen to our teachers. We're going to give them  
56 the tools they need to succeed. We're going to put their good ideas to work creating

1 rigorous and relevant study programs.  
2  
3 Colorado has made great progress in the area of accountability. But now we need to  
4 strengthen and streamline our different accountability programs. We need one system  
5 that provides meaningful data in a timely fashion so we can improve student learning.  
6 I look forward to working with the state Board of Education on this issue.  
7  
8 Our overall education efforts must start at the pre-school level and continue through  
9 college. Coloradans want to see more slots opened up for pre-school programs. And  
10 so do I. I look forward to working with Speaker Romanoff to decide exactly how we  
11 do that.  
12  
13 I want our colleges and universities to double the production of technical certificates  
14 and college degrees over the next 10 years. To do that, we need our higher ed systems  
15 pulling in the same direction, not competing against each other.  
16  
17 We also need to acknowledge that higher education's portion of the state budget has  
18 dropped from about 14½ percent in 1997 to 10 percent a decade later. Colorado ranks  
19 49<sup>th</sup> in the country in per capita dollars directed to higher education.  
20  
21 Our higher-education system, particularly our community colleges, is vital to rural  
22 Colorado. And for many young people across Colorado, affordable colleges and  
23 universities are the only lifeline to a better future.  
24  
25 We need to keep those institutions accessible to everyone and protect that lifeline,  
26 while also improving quality, or we risk losing everything.  
27

## 28 VI. Public Safety

29  
30 Public safety. Let's talk for a minute about public safety. I spent a career being tough  
31 on crime, trying to be smart on crime. Now we have to be smarter than ever. Our  
32 social compact and our responsibility as government leaders to keep people safe  
33 demands it. And so does our budget.

34  
35 Judge Weir and Ari Zavaras, my nominees for the Public Safety and Corrections  
36 departments, understand this. They share my vision, and I have directed them to  
37 examine how we can control prison costs by:

38  
39 Preventing crimes before they occur. Looking at drug courts and other  
40 intervention programs, because a significant majority of prison inmates are  
41 substance abusers.

42  
43 Developing programs that allow inmates to successfully re-enter society.

44  
45 Making recidivism-reduction a top priority of these two departments. If we  
46 can prevent someone from re-offending, that's one fewer victim.

47  
48 . More than half of DOC inmates wind up back in prison within three years.  
49 That's simply an unacceptable number. The costs are spiraling out of control  
50 and eating into our ability to fund education and health care. We can do better  
51 here in Colorado, and we're going to.

## 52 VII. The G.E.M Performance Review

53  
54 One of the most exciting things about the last two months has been putting together  
55 a new Cabinet. For these Cabinet members to succeed, they will need as many tools

1 as we can give them, which is why we will quickly embark on a top-to-bottom  
2 performance review. We're calling it the Colorado G.E.M. Performance Review –  
3 Government Efficiency and Management Performance Review.

4

5 This won't be another line-item hunt for a few dollars here and a few dollars there.  
6 This isn't a put-down of state employees. Just the opposite.

7

8 Our state employees are *really* smart people. They understand how government works.  
9 And they know better than anyone how it can work better. We need their good ideas,  
10 and then we need to put them into action.

11

12 I am inviting all state employees to partner with me in this endeavor. Our first step will  
13 be to establish an e-mail address for employees to submit cost-saving and efficiency  
14 ideas. Their participation is vital to our success.

15

16 I want a government that delivers the services that Coloradans need as efficiently as  
17 possible. I want a government that is open for business, a government that serves the  
18 people and not itself, and a government that treats every tax dollar with the greatest  
19 of care.

20

21 As your governor, I will ensure that we take advantage of improvements in  
22 technology, purchasing and business processes. I will find areas that can be  
23 streamlined, made more efficient and when appropriate, eliminated.

24

25 We can do a better job of drawing down on all available federal grants and matching  
26 funds. We can make better investments today in everything from health care to  
27 education to criminal justice in order to recoup even more savings in the long run.

28

29 My budget proposals to you will reflect a shared vision for Colorado. A budget is a  
30 moral document. It should set high goals and reflect the best policy and business  
31 practices of any state in the nation.

32

33 That means transparency – including posting every department's budget online -- and  
34 cooperation. Together, we can improve service delivery, achieve measurable outcomes  
35 and yes, even save money through efficiencies.

36

37 I look forward to working with all of you on this, especially the JBC, led by Senator  
38 Abel Tapia.

39

## CONCLUSION

40

41 Colorado is what it is today because of God's gift, because our parents and  
42 grandparents were wise enough to protect it and to invest in it.

43

44 Now it's our turn to keep the Colorado Promise. It falls to us, in this first decade of the  
45 21<sup>st</sup> Century and our 131<sup>st</sup> year of statehood, to renew the promise and update it to the  
46 realities and challenges of our time.

47

48 The voters have entrusted us to serve them well. Not to be placeholders, but to be  
49 leaders. Not to tinker around the edges, but to find real solutions to real problems. Not  
50 to advance narrow agendas, but to be ambitious and courageous.

51

52 Fifty years from now, another governor will stand at this podium and another group  
53 of 100 legislators will occupy this chamber. They will be confronted with challenges  
54 we can't even imagine.

55

56

1 My hope is that those future leaders are able to look back at us for inspiration.  
2  
3 Inspiration because we pioneered the New Energy Economy.  
4  
5 Because we created the Colorado Health Plan.  
6  
7 Because we reduced the drop-out rate and closed the achievement gap.  
8  
9 Because we kept college affordable and built the best transportation network in the  
10 nation.  
11  
12 Because we were stubborn stewards of our environment.  
13  
14 Because we fulfilled the Colorado Promise for our children and our families.  
15  
16 Let me close by going back to something I mentioned two months ago on Election  
17 Night. I talked about two little babies who were born earlier that day: Keller Kuna and  
18 Trey Thomas. Keller's parents are here with us today up in the gallery.  
19 I said the election was about those two babies, about every baby born in Colorado on  
20 November 7<sup>th</sup>. The election was about our future and how we as a state go forward in  
21 fulfilling the Colorado Promise.  
22  
23 At the end of this legislative session, at the end of the year, at the end of four years,  
24 I hope we can report back to Keller's parents, to Trey's parents, to all Coloradans, that  
25 we made progress. That we solved problems.  
26  
27 That we are in fact fulfilling the Colorado Promise – together.  
28  
29 Thank you, and God bless Colorado.

30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31  
32 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor from the Chambers.  
33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34

35 On motion of Representative Madden, the Governor's message was  
36 ordered printed in the House Journal.  
37 \_\_\_\_\_  
38

39 On motion of Senator Gordon, the Joint Session was dissolved.  
40 \_\_\_\_\_  
41  
42 House reconvened.  
43 \_\_\_\_\_  
44

#### 45 PRINTING REPORT 46

47 The Chief Clerk reports the following bills have been correctly printed:  
48 **HB07-1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085,**  
49 **1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094.**  
50 \_\_\_\_\_  
51  
52

#### 53 SIGNING OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS - MEMORIALS 54

55 The Speaker has signed: **SJR07-001, 002.**  
56 \_\_\_\_\_

1                   **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**  
2                   **First Reading**

3  
4     The following bills were read by title and referred to the committees  
5     indicated:

6  
7     **HB07-1095** by Representative(s) Balmer; also Senator(s) Tapia--  
8         Concerning an exemption for off-highway vehicle trail  
9         grants from the encumbrance deadline for professional  
10        services contracts.

11   Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

12  
13    **HB07-1096** by Representative(s) Fischer, Curry, Kefalas, McNulty;  
14         also Senator(s) Bacon, Isgar, Johnson--Concerning the  
15        funding of the Colorado water resources research institute.

16   Committee on Finance

17  
18    **HB07-1097** by Representative(s) Rose--Concerning authorization for  
19        the use of original license plates on motor vehicles that are  
20        registered as collectors' items.

21   Committee on Transportation & Energy

22  
23  
24  
25   On motion of Representative King, the House adjourned until 9:30 a.m.,  
26   January 12, 2007.

27  
28                   Approved:  
29                   ANDREW ROMANOFF,  
30                   Speaker

31   Attest:

32    MARILYN EDDINS,  
33    Chief Clerk