

HOUSE JOURNAL
SIXTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF COLORADO
Second Regular Session

Second Legislative Day

Thursday, January 9, 2014

1 Prayer by the Reverend Andrew Cooley, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal
2 Church, Boulder.

3

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

5

6 Pledge of Allegiance led by Leo Cumplido, Arrupe Jesuit High School,
7 Denver.

8

9 The roll was called with the following result:

10

11 Present--64.

12 Excused--Representative(s) Swalm--1.

13

14 The Speaker declared a quorum present.

15

16

17 On motion of Representative Becker, the reading of the journal of
18 January 8, 2014, was declared dispensed with and approved as corrected
19 by the Chief Clerk.

20

21

LAY OVER OF CALENDAR ITEM(S)

22

23
24 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the following item(s) on the
25 Calendar were laid over until January 10, retaining place on Calendar:

26

27 Consideration of Resolution(s)--**HR14-1001, 1002, 1003; SJR14-001.**

28

29

30 House in recess for Joint Session.

31

32

33

JOINT SESSION

34

35
36 The Joint Session was called to order by the Speaker of the House, Mark
37 Ferrandino.

38

39 On motion of Senator Heath, the morning roll call of the Senate was
40 made the roll call of the Joint Session.

41

42 Present--35.

43

1 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the morning roll call of the
2 House was made the roll call of the Joint Session.

3

4 Present--64.

5 Excused--Representatives Swalm--1.

6

7 The Speaker declared a quorum present and as is customary presented the
8 gavel to the President of the Senate to preside over the Joint Session.

9

10 President Carroll requested the Joint Committee, composed of Senators
11 Nicholson, Aguilar, and Rivera, and Representatives Buckner, Vigil, and
12 Murray to escort the Honorable John Hickenlooper to the rostrum.

13

14 Chief Sergeant-at-Arms Wallin announced the arrival of the Honorable
15 John Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado.

16

17 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor to the rostrum where he
18 addressed the Joint Session.

19

20

21 **ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE**
22 **John Hickenlooper**

23

24 Good morning.

25

26 It's great to be back here, together, in the people's state Capitol.

27

28 To the four new members stepping into your first legislative session—I
29 offer you my sympathies. Kidding. Just kidding. Welcome.

30

31 Fortunately for you and for all of us, we will have the leadership of
32 Senate President Morgan Carroll, House Speaker Mark Ferrandino,
33 Senate Minority Leader Bill Cadman and House Minority Leader Brian
34 DelGrosso.

35

36 Another veteran hand is Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia; our thanks to Joe and to his
37 wife, Claire, for sharing him with the state.

38

39 We are honored to have the Vice Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian
40 Tribe, James Olguin, and the Vice Chairwoman of the Ute Mountain Ute
41 Tribe, Juanita PlentyHoles. Welcome.

42

43 I want to thank my cabinet and senior staff, along with all state
44 employees who have worked so hard, especially, this year. Our thanks to
45 everyone who has been so dedicated to the flood recovery efforts,
46 especially the Colorado National Guard, the Department of
47 Transportation, the Department of Public Safety—and our volunteer
48 Chief Recovery Officer, Jerre Stead, and his team from IHS; we are
49 indebted to everyone of you.

50

51 Our thanks as well to Attorney General John Suthers and Treasurer
52 Walker Stapleton and to our Secretary of State—the dogged “honey
53 badger”—Scott Gessler.

54

55 Thank you to the distinguished members of the Colorado Supreme Court
56 and to the Colorado State Board of Education.

1 Denver Mayor Michael Hancock is here; thank you, mayor, for your
2 partnership with the state of Colorado.

3
4 Also, I want to express my deep gratitude to Helen. not iust for being
5 here today, but for being there *every* day, for our son, Teddy.

6
7 On behalf of all of Coloradans, I want to thank the Denver Broncos for
8 giving us something to cheer about this season.

9
10 And how could we not congratulate the Colorado State University Rams?

11
12
13 That fourth-quarter win over Washington State—scoring 18 points in the
14 final three minutes to come from behind—THAT was nothing short of
15 amazing.

16
17 That victory was a reminder that when Coloradans are faced with
18 challenging circumstances, there is no “quit.” Giving up—that’s not
19 going to happen.

20
21 In trying times, Coloradans do what we always have done: pull together
22 and get it done.

23
24 Colorado has always been a good place to find what you’re made of.

25
26 Earning your keep, making your own way, looking out for your
27 neighbor—that comes with the territory.

28
29 In Colorado, we know there will be times when we will be tested.
30 Times when we will take action that shows who we really are and what
31 we stand for.

32
33 And, along the way, shows the world what it means to be a Coloradan.

34
35 Lately, we’ve had more than our fair share of those times.

36
37 When we gathered for our last State of the State address, in the wake of
38 the Waldo Canyon Fire and the Aurora massacre, many of us thought we
39 would never again experience a year like 2012.

40
41 That was not the case. Every season of 2013 presented another
42 unthinkable test.

43
44 During the spring, our executive director of the Department of
45 Corrections, Tom Clements, was gunned down in his home.

46
47 Throughout the summer, wildfires burned: the Black Forest, Royal
48 Gorge, West Fork, and Red Canyon.

49
50 In the fall, we got the flood—against the backdrop of the politicians in
51 D.C. who couldn’t get along well enough to keep the federal
52 government’s doors open.

53
54 In the winter, came the reports of a shooter in Arapahoe High School and
55 the heart-wrenching reality that 17-year-old Claire Davis had been fatally
56 shot.

1 This past year, Colorado has been scorched.
2
3 Colorado has been flooded.
4
5 Colorado—*once again*—endured senseless, inexplicable violence.
6
7 Yet, despite all of it, we did not let that define us. That is not our story.
8
9 Our story—and what we showed the world is:
10
11 Colorado does *not* shutdown.
12
13 Colorado does not quit.
14
15 Colorado does not break.
16
17 We know there are folks out there still grieving, still recovering.
18
19 We know there are people out there feeling the impact of the national
20 economy’s downturns. And we are doing everything within our power
21 to change that.
22
23 But make no mistake—the state of Colorado has not only endured, it also
24 has *thrived*.
25
26 My fellow Coloradans, despite every unforeseen test, despite everything
27 that was thrown at us...
28
29 ... **the state of our state is strong.**
30
31 *And* according to just about every forecast, trend and study, the state of
32 the state of Colorado is only growing stronger.
33
34 While the national economy around us remains sluggish ...
35
36 Colorado’s unemployment rate has not gone up. It has gone *down*.
37
38 To the *lowest levels since 2008*.
39
40 This is our *fourth consecutive year of economic growth*.
41
42 According to a study from the University of Colorado’s Leeds School of
43 Business, we can expect robust job growth in *virtually every sector* of the
44 economy this year.
45
46 Colorado is ranked among the top five states in the entire country for
47 business, careers and job growth.
48
49 Four of the top ten—and *five* of the top 20 communities in the country
50 for startups—are here in Colorado: Boulder, Fort Collins, Denver,
51 Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction.
52
53 We are also one of the very best environments in the country for small
54 business.
55
56 According to the Kauffman Foundation, when it comes to creating a

1 small-business climate, this year Colorado earned a grade of “A.” That’s
2 up from a “B+” in 2012.

3
4 And people like what’s happening here.

5
6 Colorado hosted a record number of tourists this year. We gratefully
7 welcomed more hunters than last year.

8
9 Agriculture—employing 173,000 people—keeps our economy strong,
10 last year contributing \$41 billion to the state economy.

11
12 Between 2009 and 2013, Colorado agricultural exports increased by
13 almost 80 percent.

14
15 The fact that the state is strong and growing stronger is no accident.

16
17 ... In Colorado, we work for our luck.

18
19 Shortly after we took office three years ago we launched a strategy to be
20 a thoughtful and supportive partner with the business community. We
21 reached out and built relationships with people in 14 regions from around
22 the state, and based on what we heard, we designed a Colorado Blueprint
23 that focused on six core objectives:

24
25 Build a business friendly environment / Increase access to capital /
26 Educate and train the workforce of tomorrow / Retain, grow, recruit
27 companies / Cultivate innovation & technology / Create a stronger
28 Colorado brand.

29
30 Because we know the economic hard times have been especially hard in
31 some rural communities, this past year we launched the Rural Economic
32 Development Grant Program, and are in the process of awarding \$3
33 million to our rural communities.

34
35 One of the recipients is here with us today. Keith Buhrdorf. With
36 \$350,000 in grants awarded to TK Mining in Delta County. Keith’s
37 company will be able to add 5 to 10 employees, which is almost doubling
38 the workforce of TK Mining’s Delta office.

39
40 Together, we launched the Advanced Industries Accelerator Program
41 making seed capital available to start-up companies in aerospace,
42 engineering, advanced manufacturing, biosciences, electronics, energy and
43 tech.

44
45 We created a unified brand logo, which is *almost* universally loved. Two
46 hundred companies have requested to use the brand. 117 of Colorado’s
47 companies are already using it.

48
49 We launched COIN—the Colorado Innovation Network—which brings
50 together innovative thinkers and entrepreneurs from around the state.

51
52 We expanded the Biennial of the Americas, which is rapidly growing
53 into something like a Colorado’s World’s Fair.

54
55 We created the Pedal the Plains tour to promote all of the beauty and
56 opportunity of some of Colorado’s most gorgeous rural communities.

1 With labor and business working together, we passed legislation that
2 made the state contracting process more transparent, while also making
3 it easier for Colorado firms and Colorado workers to secure state
4 contracts.
5
6 When there's work to be done in Colorado, for Colorado, we should look
7 to skilled Coloradans first.
8
9 My friends, in 2010, when it came to job growth, this state was ranked
10 40th in the nation.
11
12 Now—three years later, in that same ranking, Colorado is the *4th fastest*
13 *job growth* state in the country.
14
15 *40th to 4th.*
16
17 ... Since January 2010, we have added 170,000 jobs.
18
19 In 2010, companies were leaving Colorado. Today, they are moving here.
20
21
22 While we are disappointed whenever a company leaves this state,
23 Colorado is gaining employers and jobs.
24
25 Three Fortune 500 companies have decided to call Colorado home along
26 with 26 additional companies.
27
28 Your budget decisions played a significant role in this success.
29
30 One of the most recent companies to establish headquarters in Colorado
31 is Ardent Mills.
32
33 While we were Pedaling the Plains we got to talking with our friend,
34 Darrell Hanavan, of the Wheat Growers.
35
36 Darrell told us that two of the nation's leading flour milling
37 companies—ConAgra Mills and Horizon Milling—were forming a joint
38 venture, Ardent Mills. They were six months into a search for a new
39 headquarters and Colorado hadn't made the final cut.
40
41 Undeterred, Darrell requested that I call the executives of this new
42 company. In roughly a month, Darrell and his team helped us persuade
43 Ardent Mills to locate their company here in Colorado. We pointed out
44 that Colorado is a place defined more by its future than its past. Which
45 was clearly the case with Ardent Mills.
46
47 Landing Ardent Mills is a little like winning the Super Bowl—or at least
48 the Flour Bowl—especially for rural communities. It all began with the
49 Colorado Blueprint relationships we forged across the state.
50
51 We have Bill Stoufer, who will be the Chief Operating Officer of Ardent
52 Mills, is here with us, along with Brad Berentson, who will be the Chief
53 Financial Officer.
54
55 Bill and Brad, you have the support of everyone in this room to help
56 make Ardent Mills the most innovative and successful milling operation

1 on earth.

2

3 The economic infusion and energy of Colorado's new companies, along
4 with the hard work of Colorado's entire business community, has gone
5 a long way to take Colorado past pre-recession job numbers.

6

7 The unemployment rate in Colorado has dropped from 9 percent in 2010
8 to 6.5 percent, outpacing the national rate.

9

10 Unemployment in both Grand Junction and Greeley has dropped by even
11 more, by more than 30 percent.

12

13 But let's be clear, the unemployment rate is not low enough, and all of us
14 share a commitment to keep a statewide focus on this issue.

15

16 More jobs all over Colorado is our highest priority.

17

18 As some of you know, I took what you might call an unconventional path
19 into running for office. I started out here in Colorado as a geologist.
20 During a downturn, everyone in our company got laid off.

21

22 Next thing I knew I was making beer and starting a brewpub business. It
23 turned out pretty well. But as every small business person knows, it's not
24 easy out there, especially when bureaucracy gets in the way.

25

26 I didn't run for public office until I was 50. Before that, I'd never run for
27 anything. Not even in high school.

28

29 I ran for public office as a small businessman.

30

31 I thought government needed to operate with more common sense and
32 less nonsense.

33

34 So while we have been doing all we can to make it as easy as possible for
35 business to succeed in Colorado we also have been streamlining the state
36 government, making it more efficient.

37

38 Three years ago, we started with a budget that was facing staggering
39 shortfalls.

40

41 Balancing the books is not the sexy stuff, but if the budget is wrong,
42 nothing else can be right. Just ask Congress.

43

44 When it comes to this nitty-gritty of governing, you could say we have
45 borrowed the motto: "Be Prepared."

46

47 We have funded core priorities while preparing for future needs—and
48 unforeseen events.

49 Because, together, we have made hard choices, been disciplined, not
50 spent more than we have—we've put ourselves in the position to save
51 more money for rainy days. And as we've seen, when we get rain, it can
52 be "biblical" and all at once.

53

54 The single most critical factor in Colorado being able to stay open for
55 business throughout hellfires and high waters has been reserves.

56

1 Three years ago, Colorado was setting aside only about 2 percent of its
2 General Fund money for reserves. That 2 percent gave the state only a
3 seven-day cushion.

4
5 Last year, we more than doubled that rate, to 5 percent. Our budget
6 request is to grow the fund this year to 6.5 percent.

7
8 At the same time we have also shored up our Tabor Reserves to \$48
9 million and are requesting that they be increased to \$78 million.

10
11 This money in reserve is what has enabled us to respond quickly to the
12 disasters and get assistance to local partners. It's what enabled us to get
13 roads rebuilt and open—ahead of schedule.

14 If you were to have asked anyone in Jamestown, Estes Park or Milliken,
15 if they thought we had a snowball's chance of getting those roads open
16 by Dec. 1, they would have laughed out loud — some did laugh out loud.

17
18 It is because of the cooperation of the bipartisan Joint Budget Committee,
19 that we have been able to build this budgetary bedrock. D.C. should be
20 looking at our J.B.C. to see how collaboration gets done.

21
22 To ensure that we are maximizing state resources and providing as
23 responsive customer service as possible, we have gotten LEAN.

24
25 LEAN, as many of you know, is a type of business audit that scours
26 operations looking for ways to make processes run more efficiently.

27
28 We have re-evaluated how *EVERY* state agency does business.

29
30 And we have initiated more than 100 new LEAN processes, more than
31 any state in America.

- 32
33 • Colorado's Department of Transportation recently reported a 19
34 percent decrease in contracting timelines. Combined with other
35 improvements their efforts are saving more than \$2 million.
36 • In 2008, only 33 percent of property assessment appeals were
37 resolved within one year. Now, 79 percent are.
38 • The Division of Real Estate reduced the average time it takes to
39 complete an investigation of mortgage loans by 44 percent.

40
41 These are only a few examples of our LEANer customer service, where
42 we are doing what we can and should be doing: responding quickly and
43 effectively when needed, and then getting out of the way.

44
45 We're LEAN, but we're only getting started.

46
47 One of the places where just about all Coloradans frequently become
48 aggravated is the Department of Motor Vehicles. Our DMV has made
49 great strides. But they have done so with a computer system that is nearly
50 three decades old.

51
52 While many of us play around on our iPhones while waiting in line at the
53 DMV, the employees are struggling to update the files in MS-DOS. Our
54 budget aims to change that. This will reduce the average wait time in
55 DMV offices throughout the state from 60 minutes to 15.

56

1 Through a statewide effort called Pits and Peeves, we have also
2 reviewed, modified or repealed nearly 11,000 state rules -- many of
3 which were redundant and flat-out dumb.

4
5 And we launched the Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and
6 Partnerships program—RAMP—a more nimble CDOT operation that is
7 on its way to freeing up \$300 million annually for five years for
8 accelerated construction.

9
10 This smarter way of doing business is what enabled us to deliver on our
11 promise to complete the eastbound Twin Tunnels project, the first
12 capacity increase on this stretch of I-70 since it was built in 1961.

13
14 Just about everyone of us has sat in a car on the way to or from the
15 mountains, frustrated, or even worse, stuck in traffic with a kid needing
16 a restroom.

17
18 This project will reduce travel times significantly during peak Sunday
19 hours, and decrease the number of crashes in the area by more than a
20 third.

21
22 The second Twin Tunnel project—the westbound lanes—will be
23 completed by the end of this year.

24
25 And then there's Kathy Nesbitt.

26
27 Two years ago, a full third of state workers were approaching retirement,
28 and the state's hiring system was 92 years old and loaded with countless
29 hurdles to hiring the best people.

30
31 Kathy is the executive director of the Department of Personnel and
32 Administration. She and her team successfully created a Talent Agenda
33 and worked to pass a bipartisan bill to reform the personnel system.

34
35 Supervisors can now focus on finding the best talent. Merit-pay is now
36 based not only on an employee's seniority, but also on performance.
37 Hiring times, which previously had taken three months, already have
38 been cut in half.

39
40 Just weeks ago Kathy was recognized as one of only nine recipients of
41 Governing Magazine's Public Officials of the Year Award, which is
42 something akin to an Oscar for best starring role in cutting red tape.

43 Thank you, Kathy.

44
45 Moving forward, our priorities are clear: We are going to remain focused
46 on jobs, education; and ensuring that we have a state that is as healthy as
47 it is fiscally sound.

48
49 We are going to continue to improve Colorado's customer service and
50 efficiency; and support our military families.

51
52 Fourteen years into the 21st century is well past time to reform our
53 telecommunications laws.

54
55 This session, we ask you to pass legislation that will accomplish this, but
56 at the same time rural and other unserved parts of our state should have

1 the same broadband internet access as urban areas.

2

3 With your help, this year, we will extend the job-creation tax credit from
4 five years to seven, enabling more businesses to maintain employees and
5 hire new ones.

6

7 Economic development demands infrastructure. We will propose the
8 formation of a non-profit enterprise dedicated to fostering public-private
9 partnerships to fund infrastructure projects such as transportation and
10 water. This will not only bolster economic development, it also will
11 lighten the burden on taxpayers, and harness minds and resources outside
12 of government to address unmet needs and keep Colorado competitive.

13

14 Such partnerships offer a path toward financing solutions to existing
15 challenges, such as traffic congestion, in places like Fort Collins and
16 Colorado Springs.

17

18 In the wake of the floods, we proved our ability and commitment to
19 rebuild bridges and roads. We've seen what can happen when we lose
20 that infrastructure. But the single most important investment we can
21 make in infrastructure is in our bridges to tomorrow—our children.

22

23 We must support effective teachers, students and parents.

24

25 We must find a way to address key reforms that have made Colorado a
26 national model.

27

28 Colorado voters made clear they will not make new investments in
29 education until they are convinced that current resources are being
30 prudently managed.

31

32 We are going to request that the General Assembly fund a plan to make
33 the budget of every public school transparent. Let's put the numbers on
34 the internet and make the web a window.

35 Under the current statewide public education funding system, a school's
36 funding is based on an enrollment which is counted on a single day, early
37 in the school year.

38

39 We are going ask the General Assembly to pass legislation that will
40 ensure a more accurate assessment, by counting average-daily-
41 membership in our schools.

42

43 It is nonsense not to have a powerful economic incentive for student
44 retention.

45

46 While we are choosing to adhere to the prudent budgetary strategy that
47 has been the cornerstone of our policy, this year we are seeking an
48 increase in per-pupil funding of \$223, for a total of \$400 per pupil in the
49 last two years.

50

51 We are also requesting a significant investment in higher education.

52

53 In recent years, college tuition has been steadily increasing by a rate of
54 double-digits.

55

56 Please join me in supporting our request for an additional \$100 million

1 for higher education, which would cap tuition increases at 6 percent and
2 put college within the reach of more families.

3
4 Another priority for Colorado families and for us, is supporting the
5 energy industry while protecting the environment.

6
7 The viability of the sage grouse has bedeviled Western states for a
8 decade. As chair of the Western Governors' Association, I believe we
9 can protect the sage grouse while at the same time allowing ranches,
10 farms and other economic activity to flourish. At our invitation, Secretary
11 of the Interior Sally Jewell has agreed to visit Colorado and observe
12 mitigation efforts firsthand.

13
14 Colorado's oil and gas industry contributes \$29 billion to our economy.
15 Critical to the success of the oil and gas industry is that operators
16 recognize their moral and legal obligation to protect our air and water.

17
18 Fortunately, we have been able to bring many in the industry together
19 with the environmental community to work toward solutions.

20
21 As a result, Colorado is now a national leader in developing a strong
22 regulatory environment. We brokered the nation's strongest frack fluid
23 disclosure rule in 2011.

24
25 We are proposing the nation's first-ever methane capture rule, making
26 Colorado the leader in the nation for controlling emissions.

27
28 We've said before that we're committed to holding the oil companies to
29 the highest standards to protect Coloradans and our air and water.

30
31 To that end, we are working with legislators, industry and the
32 conservation community to ensure we pass a bill this year that will
33 strengthen penalties for violations of permits and rules.

34
35 If words were water the state would never run dry. Our budget is
36 requesting a second year of funding to help create cleaner water for
37 Colorado. This year we will complete the Colorado Water Plan, which
38 will emphasize conservation, address incremental storage, and address
39 drought mitigation. We must create alternative choices to buy-and-dry.
40 No matter where we live, we cannot afford to let our farm and ranch land
41 dry up.

42
43 Part of what has gotten overlooked in the debate about guns is our work
44 on mental health.

45
46 When you look at the massacres at Columbine High School and the
47 Aurora movie theater; and the tragedies of Platte Canyon High School,
48 and most recently at Arapahoe High School, guns are only a piece of the
49 puzzle.

50
51 Another clear piece is mental health: Trying to identify and assist those
52 who are feeling isolated, bullied, the mentally ill; and trite as this may
53 sound, those who are feeling abandoned and unloved.

54
55 We allocated more than \$34 million to create and bolster programs such
56 as school-based mental health services, behavioral health community

1 centers, and to train and staff round-the-clock mental health crisis
2 centers.

3
4 We repurposed Fort Lyon, where right now there are some 80 people
5 with addictions who are getting clean, learning a skill, and turning their
6 life around. People who otherwise would have been on the street.

7
8 Just as we must implement the voters' wishes on marijuana, we are
9 obligated to make sure that children and parents understand brain
10 development and the risks of underage use. We are committed to a
11 securing a safe, regulated and responsible environment.

12
13 This will be one of the great social experiments of this century, and while
14 not all of us chose it, being first means we all share a responsibility to do
15 it properly.

16
17 Part of being the healthiest state, means we continue to prioritize services
18 for the most vulnerable. We ask for your support for Coloradans with
19 developmental disabilities and their caregivers, including addressing the
20 current waitlist, family support services, and transitional services.

21
22 In that vein, the General Assembly, with bipartisan support, created
23 Connect for Health Colorado. While other states have struggled with
24 enrollment and implementation, Colorado has outperformed the national
25 exchange and most states. More than 139,000 residents now have health
26 insurance who didn't have it before.

27
28 In addition to being the healthiest state, we have consistently worked to
29 be the most military friendly state.

30
31 We must continue to honor military veterans.

32
33 Not so long ago I received a letter from Silvia Buoniconti. It was about
34 her son, Frank.

35
36 Frank was a Chief Warrant Officer 3rd Class United States Army. A
37 helicopter pilot. Among the many honors Frank received was the
38 Distinguished Flying Cross—one of the highest awards an aviator can
39 receive for heroism in combat. Frank saved the lives of two special
40 operations teams.

41
42 He died in a helicopter crash in 2011, while training in Washington state.
43 But because he did not die while in a Combat Zone—according to
44 current state law, Silvia and her husband, Frank, are not eligible to
45 receive a Colorado Fallen Service Member License Plate.

46
47 Silvia is not the only Gold Star Mother waiting for this recognition.

48
49 For families of veterans like Frank, this law must change.

50
51 Silvia is here with her husband, Frank. We are deeply grateful for your
52 son's service, and commend you for your commitment to having it
53 recognized.

54
55 As I wrap up here and we begin this session, I have one more Ask of
56 you—of us, really.

1 You don't need a poll to know that regardless of political leanings—the
2 typical American, the average Coloradan—doesn't think much of politics
3 or politicians.
4
5 And who can blame them?
6
7 Shutdowns. Debt ceiling duels. Parties locked down, unwilling to
8 compromise.
9
10 So much negativity.
11 The public sees politicians as operators who put their own self-interest
12 or their party's agenda above the people; and who are obsessed with petty
13 pursuits and ignore the public service part of being a public servant.
14
15 The widely held perception today is that politicians divide and selfishly
16 scheme in the moment, whereas public servants unite and plan for the
17 greater good.
18
19 Over the course of the last year, everyone in this room has been tested.
20
21 Time and again, you chose to put your communities and your fellow
22 Coloradans first. You chose to be public servants, before politicians.
23
24 We must continue to rebuild better than we were before. But our work is
25 about much more than recovery.
26
27 Whether we live in a mountain community or in a city; whether we are
28 surrounded by cows or concrete, we all want the same things: the chance
29 to earn a good wage, give our children a decent education; clean air and
30 clean water.
31
32 Vigorous debate is our ally. Partisanship is not.
33
34 Skepticism is productive. Corrosive cynicism is not.
35
36 So, as we begin this session, my Ask is we ignore the divisive politics.
37
38 No one needs to remind us we're going into a political season. And I
39 realize that if such a goal for a session ever seemed ambitious, it's a time
40 like this. But that's precisely why we should set such a goal.
41
42 Tom Clements was someone who set such ambitious goals.
43
44 It's been not quite a year since Tom's death. A few months ago, I spoke
45 at a convention of the International Association of Corrections that was
46 held in Colorado Springs.
47
48 I described that when Tom was murdered he was in the midst of major
49 overhauls to the department of corrections. He was reforming
50 administrative segregation, which most of us recognize as solitary
51 confinement, and he was about to re-engineer the parole system.
52
53 Tom saw the entrenched problems. But he never gave up. He saw what
54 could and what should be. His philosophies and strategies were never
55 about locking people up, but rather, everything Tom did—really his
56 whole life—was about striving to unlock humanity.

1 It is a tragic, awful irony that an inmate put on parole directly from
2 administrative segregation showed up at his door and killed him. But that
3 is *not* what defines Tom.

4
5 Part of Tom's legacy is everything that was discussed at that convention.
6 These were directors of correctional facilities, people who worked in
7 worlds of barbed wire filled with violent criminals.

8
9 Yet the topics of discussion were things like "Alternatives for Mentally
10 Disordered Offenders," "Giving Up Crime," and "Faith Based
11 Programming." In other words, it was about unlocking humanity. And
12 it wasn't a coincidence. The theme of the convention was inspired by
13 Tom and was very much in his honor.

14
15 The other part of Tom's legacy is his family, his wife, Lisa, and
16 daughters, Sarah and Rachel, who are with us today.

17
18 Tom's story and life is not defined by what happened to him but by the
19 immense good he achieved and his legacy of love and compassion and
20 reform. His legacy of public service.
21 Tom was a public servant.

22
23 He walked the walk of public service every day.

24
25 Inexplicable, senseless violence. Fires. Floods. No, that is not our story.

26
27 Our story is about how we came together and have been getting it done.
28 Our story is that we have learned that we are at our best, that Colorado
29 is at her best, when we are connected to one another, working together.

30
31 Our story is us.

32
33 That is what it means to be a Coloradan. That is what we have and will
34 continue to show the world.

35
36 I'm all in.

37
38 To keep Colorado Strong and to keep Colorado United, all of us in here,
39 and all of our fellow Coloradans out there—every one of us needs to be
40 all in, together.

41
42 Thank you, and God bless Colorado.

43
44 _____
45 The Joint Committee escorted the Governor from the Chamber.

46
47 _____
48 On motion of Representative Hullinghorst, the Governor's message was
49 ordered printed in the House Journal.

50
51 _____
52 On motion of Senator Heath, the Joint Session was dissolved.

53
54 _____
55 House reconvened.
56 _____

1 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

2
3 Mr. Speaker:

4
5 Upon announcement of President Carroll, Representative Duran was
6 removed as a House joint prime sponsor with Representative Singer and
7 Senator Ulibarri on SB14-005.

8
9
10 **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**
11 **First Reading**

12
13 The following bills were read by title and referred to the committees
14 indicated:

15
16 **HB14-1076** by Representative(s) Peniston and Duran, Schafer; also
17 Senator(s) Zenzinger, Newell--Concerning the creation of
18 the early childhood quality incentive program for
19 enhancing early childhood education.
20 Committee on Education

21
22 **HB14-1077** by Representative(s) Gerou; also Senator(s) Hodge--
23 Concerning an increase in the statutory cap on the two-
24 year average of the unobligated portion of the oil and gas
25 conservation and environmental response fund.
26 Committee on Finance

27
28 **HB14-1078** by Representative(s) Pettersen--Concerning changes to the
29 public education accreditation statutes as a result of
30 legislative review of the rules of the state board of
31 education, and, in connection therewith, clarifying the
32 term "public school" in the accreditation statutes and
33 allowing automatic renewal of the accreditation contract
34 for an entity with an improvement plan.
35 Committee on Education

36
37 **HB14-1079** by Representative(s) Lee--Concerning an increase in the
38 monetary amount allowed for the limited offering
39 registration procedure under the "Colorado Securities
40 Act".
41 Committee on Business, Labor, Economic, & Workforce Development

42
43
44
45 On motion of Representative Pabon, the House adjourned until 9:00 a.m.,
46 January 10, 2014.

47
48 Approved:
49 **MARK FERRANDINO,**
50 Speaker

51 Attest:
52 **MARILYN EDDINS,**
53 Chief Clerk

