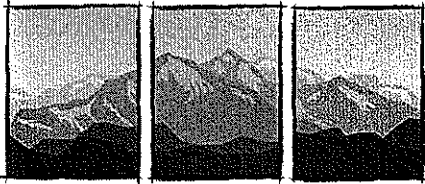


NORTHERN COLORADO

Attachment A



Economic Development Corporation

January 21, 2009

Re: House Bill 09-1064
Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force

On behalf of the Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation, we support HB 1064 in that it is asking for the formation of a poverty task force. The widening gap of poverty in Northern Colorado has been an issue our community has been studying for quite some time. We can be very proud of the community coming together for months in an impressive grass roots effort to find the solution. NCEDC helped drive the poverty study completed by our regional economist, Dr. Martin Shields.

In addition, I believe the increasing challenges facing, not only Northern Colorado but the state of Colorado due to the current economic climate, is a serious and urgent economic development issue. For example, the increase in companies laying workers off has a direct impact on the ability of those unemployed workers to keep their homes and provide for their family. There is an increase in the burden to non-profit organizations such as the food banks, homeless shelters, as well as the increase to public education as school lunch program costs go up. As more people find the need to ask for assistance, it places a burden on tax payers, businesses, governments, community, etc.

I support creating a task force to assess current state policies and practices (driven by credible data and research of best practices in other states) to be formed to study this often neglected topic. I don't subscribe to the notion of "giving people money" as much as I believe we should look for ways to give opportunity in a strategic, integrated, thoughtful and comprehensive manner.

It is my belief that now is the time, as never before, to bring collaborative efforts together in the state. I believe it will take many groups, organizations, policy makers, community, business, non-profits and government to work on this complex issue. It will take economic development organizations, like ourselves, business and industry partners, chambers of commerce, workforce centers, state and local governments, elected officials and many others who influence our state's economy – all of us must weigh in on the solution to this subject. I am hopeful the minds in the room could create immediate outcomes that our state's citizens and companies so desperately need.

Our organization is doing our part as we focus our efforts on influencing a strong business climate, helping our existing primary employers to thrive and attract suitable companies. We are poised and ready to be collaborative where we can, not just for Northern Colorado, but for our entire state. In other words, our attitude of partnering and working together is paramount with us as we tackle very large challenges that face us all economically. We care about our state, while focused on Northern Colorado, because we know "we are all in this together"!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maury Dobbie".

Maury Dobbie
President/CEO mdobbie@ncedc.com

Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force

**By Rep. John Kefalas and Senator Paula Sandoval
HB 1064**

Endorsements

9to5, National Association of Working Women - Colorado Chapter

AARP Colorado

All Families Deserve a Chance (AFDC) Coalition

ARC of Arapahoe and Douglas

Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado ACORN

Colorado Catholic Conference

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Colorado Immigrants Rights Coalition

Colorado Social Legislation Committee

CWEE: Center for Work Education and Employment

Denver Women's Commission

Energy Outreach Colorado

FRESC

Gary-Williams Energy Corporation

Housing Colorado

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - Colorado, Hunger for Justice

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

National Association of Social Workers – Colorado Chapter

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Colorado Section

Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation

Pathways Past Poverty [Larimer County]

Prax(us)

Project Wise

Women's Lobby of Colorado

Women's Resource Agency, Inc.[Colorado Springs]