

Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

On behalf of Grow Our Western Economy and the following businesses/ community members , we are writing to urgently ask you to support HB-1280, a bill that would allow local governments to approve the construction of a significant entertainment venue in western Colorado, which would include a video lottery terminal venue. As businessmen and women in western Colorado, we urge you to brush aside the specious arguments of the state's casino monopolies, and instead grant western Colorado the chance to consider and, hopefully move forward with, this significant economic development opportunity that this bill represents.

Conservative estimates from leading economists in the gaming industry (the same economists used by many casinos in Colorado) show that 400 net jobs in western Colorado will be created if this project is allowed to proceed. Attached you will find a copy of a New York Times story which describes just how hard hit our region has been by the current downturn.

Virtually no other community in the country has been hit as hard as ours by the current recession.

A vote against HB-1280 is a vote against the creation of 400 jobs; it is a vote against a dynamic economic recovery opportunity in a region that desperately needs it.

A VOTE FOR THIS LEGISLATION, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A VOTE TO GIVE OUR LOCAL ELECTED LEADERS ON THE WESTERN SLOPE THE CHANCE TO CONSIDER AND POTENTIALLY APPROVE A MAJOR JOBS OPPORTUNITY. AS YOU KNOW, NOTHING IN THIS BILL REQUIRES THAT AN ENTERTAINMENT VENUE WITH VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS BE BUILT. IT SIMPLY GIVES ONE COMMUNITY THE OPTION OF APPROVING THIS PROJECT, SUBJECT TO WHATEVER REASONABLE RESTRICTION THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES.

We urgently request that you look beyond the self-interested arguments of the opponents and focus on what matters -- 400 new jobs in the jobs-ravished western slope. A yes vote will improve the quality of our life in our hard hit region, and your consideration and service is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

#	Name	Business
1	James D. Hamilton	Home Loan Insurance
2	Thomas C. Worman	United Central
3	Bbarrett	Hasan International
4	Marijka Praete	Mary Kay Consultant
5	Daniel P. Poligk	Retired
6	Thomas A. Foster	Retired Real estate
7	Bret W. Pomrenke	Farmers Insurance
8	Epiliah Crawford	Farmers Insurance
9	Shane Lee	Farmers Insurance
10	Brad Wolf	BRAD. STEY - S&S INNOVATIONS,
12	Inbal Bergut	Mosaic Brush & Design LLC
13	Jerry Canella	RIMROCK TRADE CENTER
14	James S. Lussery	CARDIO HEALTH INSIGHTS, LLC
15	Paul B. Peller	Funshares RV
16	James Hill	Consolidated Electrical Distributors Inc
17	Thad D. Dy	Bray & Co. Realtors
18	Frank J. Jahn	Yelle chiropractic
19	Mike J.	DANS TO CARE
20	John Barbier	AMY'S COUNTRY A&D
21	Jeffrey Johnson	LE ROUGE RESTAURANT
22	Susan Wisc.	WASTREN, INC
23	Richard Hubel	Bassett Furniture
24	Mr. Clark	Bassett FURNITURE
25	Robert DeB...	Daymond Ranch Holdings, LLC
		Robinson Ins. Agency LLC

NOAD
NOAD

26 Wayne A. Fisher

27 Marc [unclear]

28 Pat Tucker

29 Craig [unclear]

30 [unclear]

31 [unclear]

32 Tom [unclear]

33 [unclear]

34 [unclear]

35 [unclear]

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Fisher's Liquor Park -
McATLID ELECTRONIC CORP.

Conquest Development LLC

Home Loan Investment Company

EAGLE XPRESS TIRE & AUTO SERVICE

MAIN ST. MDT.

E-E DOOR & WINDOW

J & S Fence

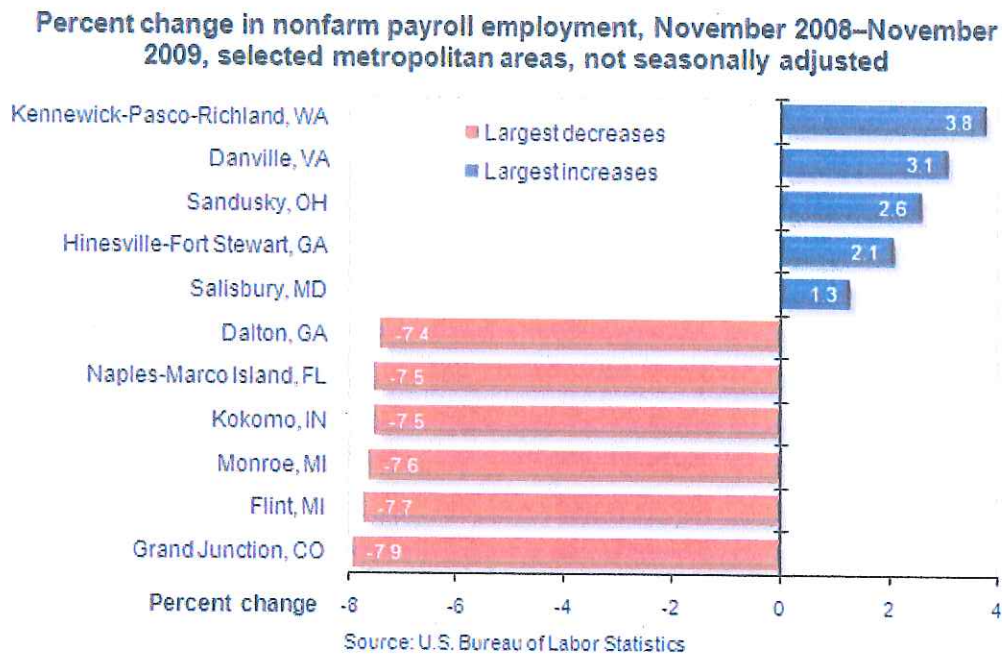
Wilcox Auto

Brickyard + Badger Blocks of Co.

In Some Metro Areas, Job Growth

By [CATHERINE RAMPELL](#)

Unemployment rates — that is, the percentage of workers who want jobs and can't find them — were higher in November than a year earlier in all 372 of the nation's metropolitan areas, the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reported last week. But in some metro areas, the number of nonfarm payroll jobs actually grew.



In fact, across the country 14 metro areas reported increases in payroll jobs. The biggest over-the-year percentage gains were in [Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, Wash.](#); [Danville, Va.](#); and [Sandusky, Ohio](#).

The biggest losses were reported in [Grand Junction, Colo.](#); [Flint, Mich.](#); and [Monroe, Mich.](#)

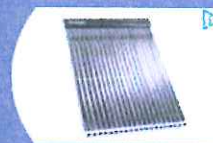
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The Big Line



2012

CD-1 Line

(D) Diana DeGetta* (1-9) She remains about as safe as you can be; will win in 12

CD-2 Line

(D) Jared Polis* (1-4) District is tougher but still leans D and Polis' money will solve any potential problems (R) Kevin Lundberg* (11-2) Pretty simple equation here. KL is perhaps most right-wing of GOP legislators, yet he's running in a D-leaning district (R) Eric Weissmann* (20-1) Unknown investment banker probably can't win a primary

CD-3 Line

(D) Sal Pace* (EVEN) Raising the money and has been best of D challengers in Colo Congressional races (R) Scott Tipton* (EVEN) Spent more money than he raised in Q4. Not a good sign for a guy who is struggling in every other aspect as well

CD-4 Line

(R) Cory Gardner* (1-3) As long as he doesn't make any self-inflicted wounds, it's hard to see how he doesn't win re-election in 2012 (D) Brandon Shaffer* (3-1) Had a dismal Q4 raising \$\$. He probably should have moved races and jumped in CD-6.

CD-5 Line

(R) Doug Lamborn* (2-5) Hard to see Lamborn losing here, but he doesn't do much to make a case for himself (R) Robert Blaha* (4-1) Businessman has drawn rave reviews from some in GOP

CD-6 Line

(R) Mike Coffman* (1-2) Raising lots of money as Ds spin their wheels. He may be heading to a fairly easy win (D) Joe Miklosi* (4-1) Boring campaign and raising embarrassingly low \$. If Q1 is as bad as Q4, cue fat lady

(D) Perry Haney (OFF) Dropped out in February

CD-7 Line

Grand Junction Leads Nation in Job Loss

by: ClubTwitty Wed Feb 03, 2010 at 10:47:13 AM MST

(- promoted by Colorado Pols)

UPDATED 2/3/10--New Title, New Info and Old Diary

The NY Times is reporting:

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP) - Grand Junction has a national title it doesn't want. The town led the nation with job losses last year according to federal labor officials.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported Tuesday that Grand Junction had the largest percentage drop in jobs for any metropolitan area. The number of jobs in and around Grand Junction went down 7.7 percent last year, from 67,100 at the end of 2008 to 61,900 in December of last year.

Grand Junction was hit hard by weak natural gas prices and job losses in the energy field. Its unemployment rate nearly doubled in the same period last year, from 4.7 percent to 9 percent.

As I noted in my diary from a few days ago, this is the anticipated result of over-reliance on a volatile commodity for economic stability. Ralphie has likewise covered this issue well.

It is, of course, a lesson that Grand Junction--and many cities and towns in the West--has lived through before. Will lessons be learned this time? Or will political leaders continue to demand that we put more of our economies into the shaky commodities basket, even though it hampers long term stability and may jeopardize other sectors of our economy?

ClubTwitty :: Grand Junction Leads Nation in Job Loss

1/31 Diary-Tipton, CO GOP want to hold Colorado back

Back to the future. That seems to be the summation of most of the talking points coming out of the GOP, which apparently prefers an economic future based on the past.

Take Scott Tipton, failed contender for the 3rd Congressional District up for another try. (First Tipton must best the 'Cowboy Colonel' Bob McConnell in the primary, who is busy fighting Marxism from his bunker in Steamboat Springs, and has the Tea Partisans' endorsement).

Tipton is not one to allow substance to get in the way of concise but mostly empty slogans.

Tipton said he doesn't support tax increases, but he does stand behind the creation of more coal-fired power plants, nuclear plants and energy production that will help create more jobs.

Tipton is also on record claiming he is running to bring "Practical solutions to real problems," which tells us absolutely nothing.

But the mendacity of empty slogans aside, this refrain also reveals the myopic pandering at the expense of Colorado's long-term economic stability that is becoming the hallmark of today's Republicans in Colorado.

It is by now a tired refrain from the GOP that oil and gas must be given free reign in Colorado, that protecting adjacent landowners, local water supplies, and wildlife habitat are too onerous.

This has led to many ridiculous formulations, such as this gem from former gubernatorial candidate and lame duck Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry:

"There are a lot of these big office buildings that used to be populated and now

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John Hickenlooper
Governor

Ellen Golombek
Executive Director

Alexandra E. Hall
Director



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

633 17th Street, Suite 600
Denver, Colorado 80202-2107

August 26, 2011

Robin Pulkkinen
Loan Specialist
USDA/Rural Development
Denver Federal Center
Building 56, Room 2300
PO Box 25426
Denver, Colorado 80225-0426

Dear Ms Pulkkinen,

Pursuant to the provision of the Economic Impact Initiative contained in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act as Amended 1972, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Office of Labor Market Information, is delegated the authority to certify counties within Colorado where the Not Employed Rate exceeds 19.5 percent.

The Not Employed Rate is the percentage of individuals over the age of 18 who reside within the community and who are ready, willing and able to be employed but are unable to find employment as determined by the department of labor of the State in which the community is located.

The role of the Office of Labor Market Information in this process is limited to the identification and certification of qualified counties under this definition.

Analysis results show the counties in which the percentage of individuals over age 18 is higher than the 19.5 percent threshold.

<u>County</u>	<u>Not Employed Rate</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Not Employed Rate</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Not Employed Rate</u>
Archuleta	22.31%	Lake	20.84%	Pueblo	20.36%
Conejos	20.35%	Mesa	19.53%	Saguache	23.43%
Costilla	26.64%	Montezuma	19.87%	San Juan	25.31%
Dolores	25.94%	Montrose	21.65%	Teller	19.74%
Fremont	21.33%	Otero	19.58%	Weld	19.71%
Huerfano	22.27%	Ouray	19.60%		

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Alexandra E. Hall
Director

Cc: Ellen Golombek, Executive Director
Cher Haavind, Director, Government, Policy and Public Relations



Mesa County, Colorado
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1 - Craig J. Meis (970) 244-1605
District 2 - Steven Acquafresca (970) 244-1604
District 3 - Janet Rowland (970) 244-1606

P.O. Box 20,000 • 544 Rood Avenue • Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5010 • FAX (970) 244-1639

April 13, 2012

RE: HB 12-1280 Video Lottery Terminal Bill

Dear House or Senate Member:

It has been brought to our attention that the above referenced bill is being met with much resistance from State Legislators who are not from the areas of the State where this bill would be applicable. Whether or not our County and community would be supportive of something like this is yet to be determined, but the fact that our area may not be able to determine this for ourselves leaves us scratching our heads as to why the legislators from outside our area would preclude us from making these economic decisions for ourselves.

We respectfully request that you let us, and every other City and County in this State, make these determinations. Please support this bill so we can decide if this economic decision is right for us or not.

Sincerely,


Craig Meis, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

John Bailey
Grow our
Western Economy

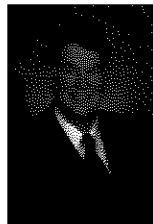
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Western Slope State Representatives Don Coram and Ray Scott are fighting for legislation that would bring 400 jobs to the region, and with it, a world class entertainment venue that will include restaurants, shops and popular new lottery games.

Will the Legislature give the Western Slope the chance to consider this enormous economic development opportunity?

The bipartisan plan would authorize one city or county on the Western Slope to build a new, ground-breaking entertainment venue, which will include a new lottery game that is popular in other states – video lottery terminals. As part of the package, horse racing, once a popular pastime in our region, would return to the Western Slope. The legislation would not require that the new entertainment venue be built. It simply gives local communities on the Western Slope the choice.



Leaders across the region are standing up and endorsing Representatives Coram and Scott's plan:

"Please support this bill so we can decide if this economic decision is right for us or not."
– Craig Meis, Chairman, Mesa County Board of Commissioners

"Video lottery terminals are an added entertainment value for those coming from other areas and other states and will help bring outside dollars into our community and into state coffers."
– Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce

"A vote for this legislation ... is a vote to give our local elected leaders on the Western Slope the chance to consider and potentially approve a major jobs opportunity."
– Excerpt from letter to House Finance Committee signed by two dozen Western Slope business leaders

But Front Range casino operators are fighting the legislation. Somehow, casino bosses argue that a new lottery game on the Western Slope will harm the profits of casinos in Blackhawk. Casino special interests in Denver are telling the Legislature that their profits are more important than our jobs.

Make Your Voice Heard

Western Slope jobs are more important than the profits of Front Range casino operators.

**Email Reps. Don Coram And Ray Scott
And Thank Them For Their Leadership**

Tell them to keep fighting for jobs, even if it means fighting the out of state interests who control the casinos in Blackhawk and Central City: don.coram.house@state.co.us ray.scott.house@state.co.us

**Email Grow Our Rural Economy To Find Out How
You Can Help Pass This Legislation**

**Western Colorado business and political leaders have spoken. Is Denver listening?
Will the legislature allow us to GROW OUR RURAL ECONOMY?**

westerncneedsjobsnow@gmail.com
Paid for by Grow Our Western Economy