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short takes

By The Denver Post

Caving to business interests. It was disappointing to see House Republicans kill legislation that would have reined in enterprise zone tax credits. It seemed to us that cutting back a sprawling government program that has strayed from its roots would be in the GOP wheelhouse. But it was not to be. House Bill 1260 was strongly opposed by business interests and was voted down in a House committee. It would have capped enterprise zone tax credits claimed by a single company at \$250,000. These zones were created in the 1980s to jump-start economic growth in depressed areas, but over time grew to cover 70 percent of the state. But all is not lost. Two other bills are pending — one creating a task force to study the zones and another that would make permanent a \$500,000 cap on credits claimed by a single company. We think they are good steps toward returning enterprise zones closer to what they were originally intended to be.