

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

David E. Skaggs
Executive Director

Senate Bill 052: "Concerning the Funding Source for the Innovative Higher Education Research Fund"

Sponsors: Senator Bacon and Representative Pommer

- The Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority (Authority) was established in 2007 by SB07-182 and provides a dedicated source of state matching funds to institutions of higher education applying for grants for competitive federally-sponsored research projects.
- Colorado's research institutions need state matching funds to compete against other states' institutions. States like California, Washington, and Arizona devote hundreds of millions of dollars to research and development efforts.
- Currently, the Authority is funded with just 10¢ of the Waste Tire Recycling fee of \$1.50 on each new tire purchased (and old tire recycled) in Colorado. This legislation would increase this to 25¢ by reallocating the 15¢ portion of the fee that currently funds grants focused on recycling and waste diversion that are managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- The Authority recently pledged state matching funds for two highly competitive National Science Foundation awards to the University of Colorado – Boulder and the Colorado School of Mines. The awards for Materials Science & Research Engineering Centers total over \$16 million over several years – an impressive 4 to 1 ratio to the Authority's funds.
- Additional funding are required to meet the pledged state match on these NSF awards over their six year life and to enable matches on prospective future NSF and DOE grants. Using this full 25¢ share of the Waste Tire Recycling fee for the Authority enables a modest amount of state money to leverage major technological research and economic development for the state.
- The change in the distribution of funds from the tire fee is supported by the state's public research institutions (CU, CSU, Mines and UNC), the Governor and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Action requested: **SUPPORT for S.B. 052**

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