



Rod Bockenfeld

County Commissioner District 3

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April 28, 2009

Colorado State Senate  
Local Government Committee

RE: HB1327

Dear Committee Member:

Please support HB1327 as currently proposed.

I am a member of Arapahoe County's Executive Budget Committee, Colorado Counties Inc.'s Taxation and Finance Committee, National Association of County's Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Sub-Committee Chairman, and twenty-nine (29) years experience in finance. I fully support HB 1327 because it is a first step towards creating a level playing field with municipalities when they get overly creative in how they initiate tax incremental finance projects.

Arapahoe County is very financially sound during this difficult time. The reason for this is because of how we developed a pay as you go philosophy on capital improvement projects and that how growth must pay its own way. These two very effective philosophies are now in jeopardy because of how TIFs have been growing at an alarming rate of 18% per year. Our capital improvement projects are all based on future growth in population as reported by DRCOG or Local Affairs. Along with population growth also comes property tax assessment value growth. Part of this revenue is to be utilized for debt service for bonds or certificates of purchases. As cities are getting more and more creative in defining blight and how they utilize TIFs, these revenues are being diverted away from county governments. We eventually will be left with no other alternative other than to raise property taxes to cover our future needs.

Please keep in mind that low taxes are one of the most effective tools for creating economic development.

Sincerely,  
  
Rod Bockenfeld  
Commissioner