

STATE OF COLORADO

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

2007-2009 Ritter Administration Accomplishments

As the first Colorado-born governor in more than 35 years, Bill Ritter has been moving Colorado forward since 2007. His vision and strategies on job-creation, education, energy, the environment, healthcare, transportation and smarter government are creating a better future for Colorado's children, families and small businesses.

Despite the worst global economy since the Great Depression, Gov. Ritter, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien and their administration are establishing an internationally recognized New Energy Economy, leading the nation in education reform and building new Industries of the Future.

Gov. Ritter and Lt. Gov. O'Brien aren't waiting for Washington to control healthcare costs, improve education or create a clean-energy economy. Gov. Ritter is working tirelessly on behalf of Colorado's families and small businesses to create jobs and new opportunities, strengthen communities and help Coloradans live up to the Colorado Promise.

Gov. Ritter is keeping Colorado's budget balanced – making the same tough but necessary decisions that families and businesses are making – while minimizing pain, modernizing government and positioning Colorado for a strong recovery.

Over the past three years, Gov. Ritter has visited every corner of Colorado, nearly all of Colorado's 64 counties and made more than 250 trips to communities outside the metro area.

He has signed 1,422 pieces of legislation into law, appointed more than 2,100 Coloradans to boards and commissions, named 75 people to the bench, and issued 1,000 proclamations.

His strategic investments in the people, businesses and institutions of Colorado are moving us forward, creating new Colorado partnerships and establishing new pathways to success.

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JOB-CREATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Gov. Ritter is advancing economic development strategies that create jobs, help small businesses, spur innovation, increase manufacturing and grow knowledge-based Industries of the Future like the New Energy Economy, aerospace, biosciences and technology. He is enacting the most aggressive economic initiatives in Colorado in decades, and his strategies are working:

- The state's unemployment rate is well below the national average.
- Colorado is regularly ranked as a top state in which to do business.
- Colorado's New Energy Economy is creating thousands of jobs.
- Experts say we'll be among the first states to emerge from the downturn.

Small businesses are the backbone of Colorado's economy and the engine that drives job-creation. In this tough economy, Gov. Ritter is keeping Colorado businesses competitive by building on our strengths – a highly educated workforce, a business-friendly tax climate and great quality of life. He is:

- Cutting taxes for 30,000 small businesses (House Bill 08-1225, Rice/Williams).
- Creating the Job Growth Incentive Program, which in just its first few months is helping to create hundreds of new jobs (HB 09-1001, Rice/Heath).
- Reviving an access-to-capital program that is helping Colorado's small businesses get the loans and credit they need (SB 09-67, Heath/Marostica & Gagliardi).
- Creating a new lease-to-own financing tool to help homeowners afford solar panels, and spurring news jobs for solar installers (SB 09-51, M. Carroll/Levy).
- Simplifying the corporate income tax code to help Colorado's businesses retain jobs and expand (HB 08-1380, Jahn/Shaffer).
- Creating the Bioscience Research Fund Grant program, which is providing \$26.5 million to expand Colorado's bioscience industry by expediting the transfer of research from the lab to the marketplace (HB 08-1001, Riesberg/Bacon).
- Expanding research and development in clean-tech and the biosciences by extending an existing sales tax exemption on equipment (HB 09-1035, Riesberg/Heath).
- Creating an income tax credit for investments made in R&D and manufacturing to help small businesses obtain necessary "Angel" funding (HB 09-1105, Kefalas/Sheffel).
- Enacting the first new transportation-funding initiative in almost 20 years, FASTER, to keep roads and bridges safe and create jobs. (SB 09-108, Gibbs/Rice).
- Modernizing Colorado's rural incentive programs to make it easier for rural small businesses to obtain job-creation incentives (HB 08-1183, Hodge/Veiga).

■ **Business Attraction, Retention and Expansion Projects**

2007

Company	Community	Industry	# of Jobs
United Launch Alliance	Centennial	Aerospace	646
Vestas Blades	Windsor	Wind Energy	600
IBM	Boulder	Green Data Center	100
Abengoa Solar	Lakewood	Solar Energy	65
Iberdrola Renewables	Boulder	Wind Energy	5

2008

Company	Community	Industry	# of Jobs
Northrop Grumman	Colorado Springs	Aerospace	600
Kaiser Permanente	Metro Denver	Life Sciences	200
ConocoPhillips	Louisville	Renewable Energy	TBD
Leprino	Greeley	Food Processing	500
RES Americas	Broomfield	Wind Energy	200
Dragon Manufacturing	Lamar	Wind Energy	200
USOC	Colorado Springs	Non-Profit	170
Vestas Towers	Pueblo	Wind Energy	500
Vestas Blades	Brighton	Wind Energy	600
Vestas Nacelles	Brighton	Wind Energy	700
Broadwind Energy	Englewood	Wind Energy	100
Sun Edison	Westminster	Solar Energy	30
Woodward Governor	Fort Collins	Wind Energy	100
Confluence Energy	Kremmling	Biomass Energy	90
Rocky Mtn. Pellet Co.	Walden	Biomass Energy	--
Camco Global	Broomfield	Carbon Management	10
Tri-Zetto	Greenwood Village	ITC	200
Comcast	Centennial	ITC (Data Center)	60
Petroleum Development	Denver	Energy	150
InfoPrint	Boulder	ITC (Retention)	130
IBM	Boulder	ITC (Retention)	650
Covidien	Boulder	Life Sciences	150

2009

Company	Community	Industry	# of Jobs
Charles Schwab	Centennial	Financial Services	500
Water Company	Pueblo	Manufacturing	150
DaVita	Denver	Life Sciences	500
Fresenius Medical	Centennial	Life Sciences	100
Leitner Poma	Grand Junction	Wind Energy	100
Hexcel Corp.	Windsor	Wind Energy	100
Abound Solar	Longmont	Solar Energy	300
Ascent Solar	Thornton	Solar Energy	200
Solix Biofuels	Ignacio	Biomass Energy	10
Prime Star Solar	Arvada	Solar Energy	200
GE Energy Controls	Longmont	Wind Energy	200
Creative Foam	Longmont	Wind Energy	35
E.ON Renewables	Denver	Wind Energy	10

RE Power USA	Denver	Wind Energy HQ	75
Bach Composite	Fort Lupton	Wind Energy	150
UQM Technologies	Frederick	Hybrid Vehicle Parts	TBD
SunRun Inc.	Denver	Solar Energy	--
Siemens R&D	Boulder	Wind Energy	50
SMA Solar	Denver	Solar Energy	700
SGB USA	Wheat Ridge	Wind Energy	15
PMC Technology	Golden	Wind Energy	40
INTUIT	Englewood	ITC	105
IBM	Boulder	ITC	500
Hewlett Packard	Colorado Springs	ITC (Data Center)	10
ACS	Colorado Springs	Financial Services	600
Owens Corning	Adams County	Manufacturing	200
Aercrete	Florence	Manufacturing	50
Sierra Nevada Corp.	Centennial	Aerospace	200
SolarCity	Westminster	Solar Energy	40

■ **Other Economic-Development Initiatives**

- Hosted a series of statewide small business finance “Surviving Tough Times” workshops to give small businesses direct access to federal, state and local assistance.
- Hosted the first Rocky Mountain Life Sciences Investors Conference in 2009.
- Secured a Procurement and Technical Assistance Center from the federal government to help increase access to government contracting for Colorado’s small businesses.
- Helped found, organize and launch the Colorado Cleantech Industry Association.

■ **Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT)**

- OEDIT launched the “Colorado Companies to Watch” program in June 2009, recognizing the top 50 second-stage businesses in Colorado.
- OEDIT provides marketing support for targeted industries, including a major presence at the annual National Space Symposium, the BIO and AdvaMed exhibition, and American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) trade show.
- The International Trade Office (ITO) provides ongoing support to 337 companies, contributing to \$637.8 million in export sales for 2007-09. The office has organized 26 incoming and outgoing trade and investment missions from 2007-09.
- ITO was one of five grant recipients from the U.S. Commerce Department’s Market Development Cooperators Program in 2009. ITO will receive \$363,135 to support Colorado company exports of “clean” products and services to China and Mexico.
- Colorado’s 16 Small Business Development Centers counseled 4,435 clients in 2009, helping to create 1,177 new jobs and retain another 1039, and bringing total capital formation in Colorado to over \$57 million for the year.

- The Colorado Council on the Arts released a Creative Industries report that shows this economic sector supports 186,000 jobs in Colorado, making it the 5th largest employment sector and among the fastest growing job clusters. An advisory panel of 60 industry leaders will recommend strategies to promote and grow creative industries in Colorado.
- The Office of Film, Television and Media was created in 2009 to promote and secure film production in Colorado. Staff worked with producers to secure \$13.4 million in productions in 2009, including feature films in Aspen and Steamboat Springs, television commercials in Denver, Colorado Springs and Breckenridge, and television programs in Denver and Colorado Springs.

■ **Tourism**

- Colorado welcomed 50.6 million domestic visitors in 2008, with visitor spending of \$10.9 billion, the second-highest amount since recording began in 1994.
- For every dollar the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) invests in promoting travel, \$13 is returned to state and local coffers.
- Total direct travel spending in Colorado in 2008 was \$15.3 billion, and the CTO helped to support over 144,300 jobs with earnings of over \$4.1 billion. Direct travel spending in Colorado generated \$760 million in local and state taxes.
- In 2008, the CTO launched the official travel and tourism website, www.Colorado.com.

■ **Colorado Jobs Cabinet**

- Gov. Ritter's Jobs Cabinet issued recommendations in 2009 to align the state's economic development, workforce development and education programs to ensure Colorado is producing a globally-competitive workforce.

■ **Helping Colorado Businesses, 2007-09**

- The Department of Labor and Employment piloted and then expanded statewide in 2009 a new CareerReady Colorado Certificate to assist job-seekers and employers.
- Colorado First and Existing Industries Customized Job Training Program worked with more than 200 companies to train or retrain 18,755 employees.
- The Venture Capital Authority invested \$6.3 million in Colorado businesses.
- OEDIT invested \$6.4 million in Colorado's businesses, and Business Loan Funds made 126 loans totaling \$5.8 million, helping to create 247 jobs.
- In 2009, OEDIT provided Colorado Economic Development Commission Performance Incentive Funds to 11 companies for the creation of 551 jobs.
- Nearly \$7 million has been awarded through more than 50 grants to advance bioscience technology R&D and commercialization.

BALANCING THE BUDGET & MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

Even before the global recession, Gov. Ritter had established government efficiency and the safeguarding of taxpayer dollars as top priorities. While making tough and unpopular decisions to cut the budget and close billions of dollars in recession-caused shortfalls, Gov. Ritter is creating a more effective, streamlined and innovative government for Colorado.

Gov. Ritter's Government Efficiency and Management (GEM) Review identified more than \$200 million in savings and benefits, and state employees are doing their part by suggesting numerous cost-saving ideas. Gov. Ritter is implementing new accountability and transparency standards, increasing the use of digital technology and automation, eliminating waste and fraud, and demanding that all departments refocus and refine their missions.

■ **Cutting the Budget**

- Since mid-2008, Gov. Ritter has closed \$2 billion in recession-caused shortfalls, cutting spending to keep expenses in line with revenues. His proposed FY10-11 budget also calls for closing a \$1 billion shortfall.
- Gov. Ritter has made hundreds of tough budget choices, just as families and businesses are doing. He has eliminated state jobs, cut employee pay, imposed unpaid furlough days, and eliminated and reduced programs and services to keep the budget balanced.
- He is spreading the pain in order to minimize harm, while asking everyone from employees to businesses to schools to share in the sacrifices – and in the solutions. He is protecting the safety net and public safety, while also preserving investments in education, job-creation and transportation. Gov. Ritter is making the difficult, even unpopular, decisions necessary to lead Colorado to a strong and quick recovery.
- In this new economic reality, Gov. Ritter is leading the charge to adapt, adjust and re-think the way government serves the people and businesses of Colorado.

■ **Improving Transparency and Accountability**

- In partnership with State Treasurer Cary Kennedy and other state agencies, Gov. Ritter established the Colorado Transparency Online Project (TOP). TOP is a free, searchable, web-based system providing unprecedented access to information about where taxpayer money is going and how it is being spent.
- Executive departments developed streamlined, outcome-directed strategic plans with measurable performance indicators and focused mission and vision statements. All department budgets and strategic plans are also now posted on the Governor's website, www.colorado.gov/governor. The Governor's Office also is working with the legislature to further improve the strategic planning process.

■ **Coordinating, Consolidating and Collaborating**

- By increasing coordination on food menu development, food orders and food storage, the Division of Youth Corrections, Mental Health Institute, and Regional Centers will save taxpayers \$180,000 a year.

■ **Earning a Return on Investment**

- Gov. Ritter is improving services aimed at reducing the rate at which offenders end up back in prison. The Departments of Corrections, Public Safety and Human Services are enacting nearly a dozen programs to cut Colorado’s recidivism rate, which will reduce crime, protect the public and save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.
- By investing in employment and training services through the Department of Labor’s One-Stop Workforce Centers, the state is making an investment in job training and job placement with the goal of reducing reliance on public assistance.

■ **Leveraging Technology**

- Gov. Ritter enhanced the Office of Information Technology, consolidating IT services, functions and personnel under one roof to save time and money and provide more efficient services.
- More than 150,000 vehicle registration renewals were completed online in 2009, saving taxpayers money and providing increased convenience for Colorado citizens.
- The Parole Board is converting thousands of paper forms to electronic records, saving \$381,000 in staff time, mailing costs and printing expenses.
- By modernizing and enhancing the Internet self-service application for unemployment benefits, the Department of Labor and Employment has been able to handle a 176 percent increase in unemployment claims while reducing wait and processing times.
- The Department of Personnel and Administration transitioned the imaging of 7.4 million tax documents from microfilm to digital scanning, saving \$500,000.
- The Department of Revenue’s Taxation Division rolled out the second phase of the Colorado Integrated Tax Architecture in 2009, converting more than 5 million income tax records to the new system that replaces a nearly 50-year-old existing system.

■ **Making Government More Energy Efficient**

- By making state’s 24/7 prisons more energy efficient, the Department of Corrections is saving more than \$2 million a year in utility costs.
- Currently 73 percent of state agencies are engaged in some stage of Energy Performance Contracting (EPC). In four higher education institutions alone, FY09 projects will result in \$1.6 million of energy bill savings per year

- The state’s motor vehicle fleet is replacing older cars and trucks with fuel-efficient, hybrid and flex-fuel vehicles. And by implementing programs to reduce fuel consumption, state vehicle usage has decreased by 2.6 million miles a year.
- The State Capitol and Governor’s Residence became the first in the nation to earn LEED energy-efficient certification. Both buildings are now equipped with solar panels, and the Residence also now has a geo-exchange heating and cooling system.
- The Department of Personnel and Administration launched a new Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to encourage purchasing decisions that cause less pollution and waste, conserve resources and habitats, minimize local and global climate impact, and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

■ **Creating Common-Sense Solutions**

- Thanks to an idea from state employees, highway crews are laying leftover asphalt from construction projects under guardrails, saving \$150,000 a year on highway weed cutting.
- By aligning the lease cycles for State Patrol vehicles and equipment, the state is saving 570,000 over five years on reduced equipment installation and removal and equipment purchases, repairs and recertification.
- The State Purchasing Office implemented new State Price Agreements which saved agencies an estimated 1.7 million in FY09.
- Through loss control efforts, including the “It’s a New Day” program, the number of workers’ comp claims decreased 342 in FY09 from FY08, with a corresponding reduction in incurred claims of \$3.3 million.
- The Department of Personnel and Administration launched its Address Quality program, which has demonstrated early savings of more than \$40,000. Once the Address Quality Program is fully deployed it will save \$500,000 to \$1 million annually in postage.

■ **Eliminating Waste and Fraud**

- The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is aggressively eliminating Medicaid and Medicare fraud and waste and detecting abuse, recovering nearly \$374 million since July 2006. Recoveries have increased in part due to the purchase of smarter technology to detect provider fraud as recommended by GEM Review.
 - This program has been so successful that Colorado has been selected by the federal government to participate in a pilot project to identify provider fraud and improve the efficiency of recoveries.

COLORADO'S NEW ENERGY ECONOMY

Gov. Ritter is making Colorado's New Energy Economy a national model for creating jobs, attracting new companies and producing innovative clean-energy technologies. With Colorado's abundant supplies of wind, sun and natural gas, Gov. Ritter is leading the way toward a more diverse, secure and affordable clean-energy future by strengthening our economy and establishing an energy and climate strategy for the rest of the country to follow.

Creating Jobs. Nearly 17,000 Coloradans now work in renewable energy and energy research jobs in Colorado, the fourth-highest concentration in the country. Thanks to Gov. Ritter's strong leadership, dozens of new businesses like Vestas Wind Systems, Siemens Wind, Abound Solar, Ascent Solar and Solix Biofuels are growing and adding jobs in Colorado.

Renewable Energy Standard. In 2007, Gov. Ritter signed into law House Bill 1281, which requires that 20 percent of electricity in Colorado come from renewable sources by 2020. This new law – one of nearly four dozen New Energy Economy bills Gov. Ritter has signed since taking office – has helped create new jobs, attract new companies and spur innovation.

Climate Action Plan. Gov. Ritter issued Colorado's first Climate Action Plan in 2007, calling for a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.

Wind, Sun, Geothermal & Biomass. Colorado is capitalizing on its abundant supplies of sustainable energy sources. We've nearly quadrupled the amount of wind power on the grid and expect to double that by 2015. We're now eighth in wind power capacity, third in solar PV capacity and have some of the highest potential geothermal energy in the nation.

Natural Gas. Colorado is home to some of the largest natural gas reserves in the country. Gov. Ritter is working hard to create new markets for clean-burning natural gas while ensuring that energy development does not harm residents, water supplies, air quality or wildlife.

■ Education

- To ensure that Coloradans have the right skills and knowledge for 21st century New Energy Economy jobs, Gov. Ritter is initiating new education and training programs like Green Advantage at Colorado's community colleges.
- Colorado is home to what Gov. Ritter calls the best energy research corridor in the world. Gov. Ritter is linking the world's preeminent energy research institution – the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden – with the University of Colorado, Colorado State University and the Colorado School of Mines to create a unique Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory.

■ Greening Government

- Gov. Ritter has established numerous goals to reduce state government's carbon footprint, including the installation of solar panels on the state Capitol and the Governor's Residence. The Capitol and the Residence are the first in the country to receive LEED energy-efficiency certifications.

■ Honors

- Gov. Ritter was the only elected official to take part in a climate-change expedition to the Norwegian Arctic in August 2008 organized by the Aspen Institute, National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions.
- Gov. Ritter received the "2008 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award" from the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project.
- Gov. Ritter has testified about the New Energy Economy before Congress, to national conferences and has advocated on its behalf to the Obama administration.
- Gov. Ritter accepted the EPA 2009 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award.

■ Job-Creation and Business Development, 2007-09

2007

Company	Community	Industry	# of Jobs
Vestas Blades	Windsor	Wind Energy	600
IBM	Boulder	Green Data Center	100
Abengoa Solar	Lakewood	Solar Energy	65
Iberdrola Renewables	Boulder	Wind Energy	5

2008

Company	Community	Industry	# of Jobs
ConocoPhillips	Louisville	Renewable Energy	TBD
RES Americas	Broomfield	Wind Energy	200
Dragon Manufacturing	Lamar	Wind Energy	200
Vestas Towers	Pueblo	Wind Energy	500
Vestas Blades	Brighton	Wind Energy	600
Vestas Nacelles	Brighton	Wind Energy	700
Broadwind Energy	Englewood	Wind Energy	100
Sun Edison	Westminster	Solar Energy	30
Woodward Gov.	Fort Collins	Wind Energy	100
Confluence Energy	Kremmling	Biomass Energy	90
Rocky Mtn. Pellet Co.	Walden	Biomass Energy	--
Camco Global	Broomfield	Carbon Management	10

2009

Company	Community	Industry	# of Jobs
Leitner Poma	Grand Junction	Wind Energy	100
Hexcel Corp.	Windsor	Wind Energy	100
Abund Solar	Longmont	Solar Energy	300
Ascent Solar	Thornton	Solar Energy	200
Solix Biofuels	Ignacio	Biomass Energy	10
Prime Star Solar	Arvada	Solar Energy	200
GE Energy Controls	Longmont	Wind Energy	200
Creative Foam	Longmont	Wind Energy	35
E.ON Renewables	Denver	Wind Energy	10
RE Power USA	Denver	Wind Energy HQ	75

Bach Composite	Fort Lupton	Wind Energy	150
UQM Technologies	Frederick	Hybrid Vehicles Parts	TBD
SunRun Inc.	Denver	Solar Energy	-
Siemens R&D	Boulder	Wind Energy	50
SMA Solar	Denver	Solar Energy	700
SGB USA	Wheat Ridge	Wind Energy	15
PMC Technology	Golden	Wind Energy	40
SolarCity	Westminster	Solar Energy	40

■ Wind

- Colorado has nearly quadrupled the amount of wind power on the grid since Gov. Ritter took office, with the opening of three large wind farms in Cedar Creek, Grover and Peetz, which are generating nearly 650 MW of electricity, enough for 250,000 homes.
- Tri-State Generation & Transmission is building a 51 MW wind project near Burlington.
- The Public Utilities Commission approved the Xcel Energy Resource Plan in 2009, which sets out reliability and economic goals in supplying customers' electric needs through 2015. This decision will result in the closing of two of the dirtiest coal plants in Colorado and developing 800 MW of wind power.

■ Solar

- Colorado is now third in solar PV capacity thanks to Gov. Ritter's leadership
- SunEdison opened an 8.2 MW solar plant near Alamosa.
- SunPower Corp. will build a 19 MW solar plant in Alamosa in 2010.
- Xcel Energy and SunPower Corp. plan a 17 MW project in Alamosa.
- CSU-Pueblo opened a 1.2 MW solar system, meeting 10% of the school's needs.
- Fort Carson opened the second-largest solar plant on a U.S. military base (2 MW).
- Large-scale solar projects are now powering the Denver Federal Center (1 MW), Denver International Airport (2 MW) and the Belmar Shopping District (1.7 MW).
- The Aurora-based Solar Technology Acceleration Center (SolarTAC) will advance solar research and increase tech transfers.

■ Natural Gas

- Colorado is home to some of the largest natural gas reserves in the country, with more than 40,000 wells currently in production. Colorado has approved 19,000 drilling permits since Gov. Ritter took office, and Gov. Ritter is working to increase demand, expand pipeline capacity and create new markets for clean-burning natural gas while ensuring that development does not harm our residents, environment or wildlife.
- Gov. Ritter is advocating for quick approval by the federal government of the proposed Ruby Pipeline, which will carry Colorado natural gas to lucrative markets on the West Coast, similar to the benefits of the new Rocky Mountain Express Pipeline, which is carrying Colorado gas nearly 1,700 miles to Ohio.

■ Efficiencies

- The Governor’s Energy Office instituted a comprehensive ENERGY STAR New Homes program in 2007, when just 8 percent of new homes built in Colorado earned the ENERGY STAR efficiency label. By 2009, the figure had increased to a region-leading 28 percent. ENERGY STAR homes are 30 percent more efficient than standard homes.

■ Legislative Highlights

Since taking office, Gov. Ritter has signed nearly four dozen bills to advance the New Energy Economy, establishing a legislative framework to create thousands of clean-energy jobs and keep energy costs low for homeowners and small businesses. Among these new laws:

- **HB07-1281, Renewable Energy Standard (Schwartz/Pommer & Witwer).** Doubles Colorado’s voter-approved renewable energy standard, requiring the state’s biggest utilities to generate 20 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020. This law is attracting companies like Vestas and bringing thousands of new jobs to Colorado.
- **HB08-1160, Net Metering (Solano/Shaffer & Isgar).** Allows homeowners to reduce their electric bills by selling excess solar energy generated back to their utility company.
- **SB09-051, Renewable Energy Financing Act (Carroll/Levy).** Makes solar energy systems more affordable for homeowners and improves market conditions for solar energy companies. This new law is already creating hundreds of new jobs in Colorado.
- **HB09-1312, Renewables for Schools (Kerr/Schwartz & Romer).** Creates a loan program to help schools pay for clean-energy projects and electric or hybrid buses.
- SB09-075, Low-Speed Electric Self-Propelled Vehicles (Schwartz/Marostica)
- SB09-092, State Motor Vehicles Use Natural Gas (Kopp/Marostica)
- SB09-124, Extend Ag Energy-Related Projects (Isgar/Roberts)
- SB09-297, Expedite Federal Stimulus Act Projects (Sandoval/Judd)
- HB09-1126, Encourage Solar Thermal Installations (Hullingshorst/Shaffer)
- HB09-1149, Solar Home Pre-Wire (Merrifield/M. Carroll)
- HB09-1331, Innovative Auto Act (Gagliardi/Boyd)
- HB08-1164, New Solar Energy Technologies (Solano/Schwartz)
- HB08-1350, Financing Renewable Energy (Madden/Romer),
- SB08-081, Renewable Energy Authority (Schwartz/Madden)
- SB08-147, Increase Efficiency State Buildings (Gordon/Hodge & Levy)
- HB07-1037, Energy Efficiency Rebates for Consumers (Levy/Fitz-Gerald)
- HB07-1087, Wind for Schools Grant Program (A. Kerr/Romer)
- HB07-1150, Clean Energy Authority (C. Gardner/Kester)
- HB07-1279, Tax Credits, Renewable Energy Machines (McKinley/Romer)
- SB07-051, High Performance State Buildings (Gordon/Witwer)
- SB07-091, Renewable Resource Generation Areas (Schwartz/Massey)
- SB07-100, Energy Transmission Development (Fitz-Gerald/McFadyen)
- SB07-126, Funding for the Collaboratory (Keller/Pommer)
- SB07-246, Clean Energy Fund (Fitz-Gerald/Buescher)

P-12 & HIGHER EDUCATION

The best economic-development strategy, the best anti-poverty strategy, is a forward-thinking education strategy. Gov. Ritter knows first-hand that a quality education opens doors and expands opportunities for every young Coloradan. That's why he's fought so hard to make Colorado a national education-reform leader. He established the P-20 Education Council chaired by Lt. Governor O'Brien and has enacted student-centered reform after reform to achieve his 10-year education goals of cutting the dropout rate in half, reducing achievement gaps and doubling the number of in-state Colorado students who earn college degrees and certificates.

The 2009 legislative session capped three consecutive years of groundbreaking progress:

- **House Bill 1319, Concurrent Enrollment in Public High Schools (Merrifield and Massey/Williams).** Creates the nation's first statewide five-year dual-degree program, allowing students to concurrently earn a high school diploma and college associate's degree in five years. The new law will give students at risk of dropping out additional motivation to stay in school.
- **HB 1065, Educator Identifier Pilot Program (Benfield/Spence).** Creates the state's first system to assign unique identifiers for all educators, which can be used to match teachers with student outcomes. This will allow for greater study of the "teacher gap" and lead to an evaluation of and improvements to teacher training and development programs.
- **HB 1243, Increasing the Graduation Rate in Colorado's Public High Schools (Middleton/Bacon).** Creates the state's first Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).
- **HB 1285, Creation of Data Advisory Board (Benfield/King).** Creates the state's first Government Data Advisory Board and a 15-member Education Data Subcommittee to implement the state's interdepartmental data sharing protocol and improve data-sharing.
- **SB 285, Career and Technical Education in Concurrent Enrollment (Heath/Massey and Middleton).** Complements HB 1319 by authorizing the inclusion of Career and Technical Education courses and programs in the state's concurrent enrollment law.
- **SB 163, Education Accountability System (Hudak and King/Middleton and Massey).** Consolidates existing accreditation and accountability processes.
- **SB 160, Streamlining and Aligning Alternative Teacher and Teacher in Residence Programs (Hudak/Todd).**
- **SB 256, School Finance Act (Romer and Bacon/Pommer and Scanlan).** This year's School Finance Act establishes the foundation for the development of a residential math and science academy for low income students.
- **SB 282 PERA and Denver Public Schools Retirement System Merger (Sandoval and Spence/Kerr).**

■ **P-20 Education Council**

- Gov. Ritter established a P-20 Education Council to drive education reforms from pre-school to grad school. The Council, co-chaired by Lt. Governor O'Brien, is aligning Colorado's education systems so they serve as a seamless pipeline, helping children reach their full potential while producing the nation's best workforce. The Council has produced nearly 40 policy recommendations, many of which have become law or policy, including expanding early childhood education opportunities, expanding full-day kindergarten, developing a first-in-the-nation "P-20" data system, and deploying 75 college counselors in high schools across the state.

■ **Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids**

- Gov. Ritter initiated and signed his cornerstone education reform legislation, the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K; Senate Bill 08-212). This groundbreaking measure, for the first time in the state's history, began a complete top-to-bottom review and realignment of education in Colorado from pre-school to college. It established new definitions of what it takes for children to be ready for school and ready for the workforce or college. It also sets new content and assessment standards for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, based on the premise that all students should graduate from high school ready for college or a career.

■ **PK-12 Education**

- Gov. Ritter works closely with the Department of Education and State Board of Education to achieve long-term improvements in student learning. Efforts include:
 - Improving support and service to school districts.
 - Utilizing the data-driven "Colorado Growth Model" to help educators and parents better understand how individual students and groups of students progress from year to year, and what those students need to do to improve.
 - Piloting an intensive effort to close achievement gaps in six districts.
 - Improving the quality and access to online learning, especially important to rural Colorado.

■ **Higher Education**

- Colorado's 28 public colleges, universities and community colleges educate more than 200,000 students a year, the vast majority of whom are Colorado residents. Higher education in Colorado supports nearly 100,000 jobs and contributes \$4.25 billion in wages and salaries to the Colorado economy annually.
- Gov. Ritter works closely with the Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to ensure that college graduates are workforce-ready. Efforts include:

- Launching a strategic planning process to review the state’s higher education systems and recommend improvements to funding, quality, governance and accountability.
- Enacting legislation that makes Federal Mineral Lease revenue available to capitalize higher education construction projects. This is allowing 12 projects totaling \$231 million to move forward at college campuses around the state.
- The Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority, created by legislation enacted in 2007, pledged matching funds that were instrumental in winning National Science Foundation awards totaling over \$16 million to the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Colorado School of Mines for two highly-sought-after Materials Science Research Engineering Centers.

■ **2007-08 Legislation**

In Gov. Ritter’s first two years, he signed dozens of education bills into law. The 2008 legislative session was widely hailed as “The Education Session.” Highlights from 2007-08:

- SB07-097 (Fitz-Gerald/Madden), Tobacco Settlement Money for Higher Education
- SB07-140 (Spence/Benefield), Quality Teachers Commission
- SB07-148 (Romer/Casso), Fast College, Fast Jobs Pilot Program
- SB07-199 (Windels/Pommer), School Finance Act
- SB07-215 (Windels/T. Carroll), On-Line Learning Education
- HB07-1014 (Curry/Schwartz), Graduate Programs at Western State College
- HB07-1048 (Merrifield/Windels), Longitudinal Analysis of Assessments
- HB07-1066 (Massey/Schwartz), On-Line Education Course Reimbursement
- HB07-1118 (Todd/Tupa), High school Graduation Requirements
- HB07-1163 (McNulty/Kopp), In-State Tuition for Military and Dependents
- HB07-1232 (Merrifield/Tapia), Military Dependent Supplemental Pupil Aid
- HB07-1270 (Stephens/Shaffer), Education Data System Review and Study
- HB07-1320 (Benefield/Bacon), State Education Data Technology System
- HB07-1345 (Massey/Windels), School Accountability
- SB08-130 (Groff, Spence), Innovation School Zones Act
- SB08-212 (Romer, Penry/Witwer, Scanlan) CO Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K)
- SB08-218 (Schwartz & Penry/Buescher & Balmer) COPs for higher-ed projects
- SB08-233 (Windels & Williams/Riesberg & Marostica), Lease purchase agreements
- SB08-245 (Windels/Buescher), Higher Education Intercept Act
- HB08-1335 (Romanoff/Schwartz, Groff), Building Excellent Schools Today
- HB08-1364 (Benefield/Windels), Colorado Interdepartmental Data Sharing Protocol
- HB08-1370 (Middleton/Bacon), Colorado Counselor Corps
- HB08-1388 (Pommer/Windels), School Finance Act

HEALTH CARE

Gov. Ritter isn't waiting for Washington when it comes to reducing health care costs, improving quality and making care and coverage more secure, reliable and available. Gov. Ritter has accomplished more in three years than other governors have done in the past 40 when it comes to improving health care in Colorado. He has established Colorado as a national model and is leading the state to a healthier future.

The Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act of 2009 is among his signature accomplishments. The most significant healthcare reform measure in Colorado in decades, this landmark program will address cost-shifting and the high cost of uncompensated care, two of the main reasons for skyrocketing costs for small businesses and healthcare providers. The Act will provide coverage to 100,000 uninsured Coloradans – without costing employers or taxpayers a penny more. Other accomplishments:

- Partnered with community-based organizations, including schools and churches, to outreach and enroll children eligible for, but not enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+. Thanks to these efforts we have covered more than 70,000 children.
- Launched a Medical Home initiative for children served by Medicaid and CHP+. Today, more than 236,000 kids are served through a Medical Home.
- Expanded mental health coverage in the private insurance market and enhanced mental health services for kids in the CHP+ program.
- Created the Center for Improving Value in Health Care, a public/private partnership to pursue long-term strategies to reduce costs and improve quality by realigning incentives in the health care system.
- Provided more than \$3 million in grants to improve rural health care.
- Increased Colorado's childhood immunization rate and fully funded the Colorado Immunization Registry.
- Medicaid provider participation rates have increased due to improved processes and provider recruitment activities in spite of the economic environment.
- Introduced multiple strategies to reduce the cost of prescription medication, including the expansion of the Medicaid Preferred Drug List, which saved Medicaid over \$4 million in the first year and \$9.3 million in FY08-09. The supplemental drug rebates represent a piece of the Department's \$374 million recoveries from FY06-07 through FY08-09.
- Partnered with the Colorado Health Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to launch LiveWell Colorado, a public/private initiative to combat obesity.
- Increased transparency and accountability in private insurance and across the health care system.

- Strengthened and streamlined loan forgiveness programs to help recruit health care providers to rural and underserved communities.
- Invested in health information technology and supported the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization.
- Launched the Long-Term Care Partnership to ensure older Coloradans have access to long-term services when needed. To date, the program has helped more than 6,000 middle-income Colorado families purchase affordable, quality long-term care insurance.

■ **Budget & Funding**

- Facing unprecedented budget shortfalls, Gov. Ritter has protected critical services:
 - Health coverage for 500,000 Coloradans in Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus*
 - Breast and Cervical Cancer Program
 - Primary Care Fund
 - Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - Local Public Health
 - Community-based services for those with Developmental Disabilities
 - Community-based Mental Health services

■ **Legislation**

- HB09-1293, Colo. Healthcare Affordability Act (Riesberg & Ferrandino/Boyd & Keller)
- HB09-1111, Health Resources for Underserved Areas (Massey/Boyd & Schwartz)
- HB09-1020, Expedite Medical Program Re-enrollment (Acree/Spence)
- HB09-1012, Incentives for Wellness & Prevention (Rice & Stephens/Newell & Mitchell)
- SB09-244, Insurance Coverage for Autism (Shaffer/Primavera)
- HB09-1059, Health Coverage During Clinical Trials (Primavera/Carroll)
- HB09-1103, Presumptive Eligibility for Long Term Care (Riesberg/Newell)
- SB09-002, Motor Vehicle Fees to Support Emergency Responders (Morse/Peniston)
- HB09-1353, Medical Benefits for Legal Immigrants (Miklosi/Foster)
- SB-08 003, Medicaid Family Planning (Boyd/Riesberg)
- SB-08 135, Health Insurance Standardized Benefits Card (Mitchell/Gagliardi)
- SB-08 160, Children's Health Care (Hagedorn /McGihon)
- SB-08 161, Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment (Boyd /Merrifield)
- SB-08 194, Public Health Reorganization (Hagedorn/McGihon)
- SB-08 196, Nursing Quality Measures Hospital Report (Boyd & Tochtrop/Pommer)
- HB-08 1228, Insurance Responsibility Unfair Bus. Practices (Green/Gordon)
- HB-08 1385, Increased Health Insurance Transparency (Primavera/Schwartz)
- SB-07 036, Mental Health Benefits in Private Insurance (Keller/Stafford)
- SB-07 130, Medical Home (Boyd/M. Carroll)
- SB-07 232, Loan Repayment for Health Pro's in Underserved Areas (Romer/Massey)
- HB-07 1347, Immunization Tracking System and Registry (A. Kerr/Shaffer)
- HB-07 1022, Rural Health Care Needs (Butcher/Sandoval)
- HB-07 1101, Pueblo Health Insurance Costs Study (Butcher/Tapia)

CHILDREN & YOUTH

As a father of four, Gov. Ritter knows Colorado's kids hold the key to our future. Together with Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien and stakeholders across Colorado, Gov. Ritter is creating a better Colorado for our children and our grandchildren. He is spearheading education and healthcare reforms, leading a campaign to end childhood hunger in Colorado by 2015, and creating a clean-energy future for Colorado. He is making a difference for Colorado's kids in a number of ways:

■ **Keeping Children Healthy**

- Launched the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger by 2015.
- Partnered with community-based organizations, including schools and churches, to enroll children eligible for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). Thanks to these efforts we have covered more than 70,000 children.
- Launched a Medical Home initiative for children served by Medicaid and CHP+. Today, more than 236,000 kids are served through a Medical Home.
- Increased Colorado's childhood immunization rate and ensured a fully funded Colorado Immunization Registry.
- Expanded mental health coverage in the private insurance market and enhanced mental health services for kids in the CHP+ program.
- Expanded Medicaid coverage to those who have left the foster care system up to age 21.

■ **Keeping Children Safe**

- Using more than \$20 million in federal funding to provide child care for more than 2,800 additional children through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.
- Established the Child Welfare Action Committee and is implementing over two dozen recommendations that are improving Colorado's child-protection system.
- Created the child welfare and mental health services pilot program to provide mental health screenings, evaluations, and services for any child from 4 through 10 years of age who has been the subject of a substantiated case of abuse or neglect.
- Required each county or city and county responsible for a youth in foster care to provide that youth, when he or she plans to emancipate from foster care, with free and verifiable documents, such as a certified birth certificate and a social security card.
- Created the Child Welfare Training Academy, which will provide approximately 400 new caseworkers and their supervisors with the training, skills and knowledge to better protect the state's most vulnerable children from abuse and neglect.

- Integrated services for multi-system families and children are now active in 29 Colorado counties through the Collaborative Management Program developed under House Bill 1451. The program will improve service delivery for families in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, education and health/mental health/public health.
- In July 2008, Colorado became the first state in the nation to intercept gambling winnings from casinos and racetracks for past due child support. In the first year, families received over \$523,000 in support as a result of this new law.

■ **Education**

- Expanded full-day kindergarten and high-quality preschool for thousands of children across Colorado, giving kids a smart start to their education.
- Created the Colorado Counselor Corps, deploying more than 75 new college counselors into low-income high schools to help reduce the dropout rate and increase participation in post-secondary education.
- Created the nation's first statewide, five-year dual-degree program, allowing high school students to simultaneously earn their diploma and a community college degree.

■ **Legislation**

- SB07-036 (Keller/Stafford), Mental Health Benefits in Private Insurance
- SB07-130 (Boyd/M. Carroll), Medical Home
- SB-07-211 (Hagedorn/McGihon), Covering All Children by 2010
- HB07-1062 (Solano/Williams), Early Childhood Councils
- HB07-1347 (A. Kerr/Shaffer), Immunization Tracking System and Registry
- HB08-1370 (Middleton/Bacon), School Counselor Corps
- HB08-1006 (Jahn/Sandoval), Foster Care Sibling Visits
- SB08-003 (Boyd/Riesberg), Medicaid Family Planning
- SB08-099 (Stafford/Sandoval), Extend Medicaid Foster Care
- SB08-153 (Boyd/Ferrandino), License Home Care Agencies by CDPHE
- SB08-160 (Hagedorn/McGihon), Children's Health Care
- SB08-161 (Boyd /Merrifield), Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment
- SB08-212 (Romer/Witwer), Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment
- HB09-1319 (Merrifield/Williams), Concurrent Enrollment in Public High Schools
- SB09-104 (Sandoval/Gagliardi), Verifiable Documents Foster Care Youth
- SB09-164 (Newell/Miklosi), Child Welfare Training Academy
- SB09-245 (Sandoval/S. Schafer), Kinship Placement and Guardianship

AGING AND OLDER COLORADANS

■ Governor's Initiatives & Administration Accomplishments

- **Older Coloradans Cash Fund** – At a time when \$2 billion had to be closed, Gov. Ritter kept the Older Coloradans Fund at \$8 million for FY09-10 and FY10-11. These funds pay for vital community-based services through 16 Area Agencies on Aging around Colorado. Services include Meals on Wheels, transportation, in-home medical services, legal advice, elder abuse prevention, and information and referral services. Many of these services help seniors stay in their homes and maintain their independence.
- **Silverprint Colorado** – Provides health and wellness, long-term care, senior transportation, and professional development assistance to aging professionals.
- **Senior Source** – The Colorado Commission on Aging received grants totaling \$495,000 from the Rose Community Foundation, Caring for Colorado, Colorado Health Foundation, AARP, and Kaiser Permanente Foundation to support “Senior Source,” a multi-media campaign to provide health and well-being information to baby boomers and aging adults.
- **Seniors and Civic Engagement** – With the help of the National Governors Association Center For Best Practices Policy Academy, Colorado worked on improving the lives of older adults who wish to engage in employment, life-long learning and volunteer activities. Through the following activities:
 - **Colorado Experience Bank.** This site is a virtual community to connect boomers/older adults to employment, volunteer and educational opportunities.
 - **Employer Toolkit.** This toolkit provides an overview of best business practices gathered from successful companies and organizations. These strategies have helped employers address their skilled labor shortages by adopting innovative hiring, training, retention, and benefit package policies.
 - **Joint Partnership.** Working with the Governor's Commission on Community Service on developing a state plan to provide education and outreach to older adults getting them involved within their communities through volunteerism

■ Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- Gov. Ritter appointed nearly 1,400 people to boards and commissions in 2007 and 2008. Of those, 40 percent are age 55 or older.
- Of 692 appointments in 2009, 294, or 42 percent, were 55 or older.

MILITARY, NATIONAL GUARD & VETERANS

■ Activities

- Gov. Ritter visited Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait to support Colorado National Guard and active-duty military personnel.
- Addressed 472 troops from the Colorado National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, shortly before they were deployed to Iraq. This was the Colorado Army National Guard's largest deployment since World War II.
- Strongly supported the construction of a new, stand-alone, veterans' hospital at the Fitzsimons medical campus in Aurora, Colorado. Also spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony in August 2009.
- Toured the current Veterans Administration hospital during the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. Visited the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Surgical Intensive Care Units.
- Toured Peterson Air Force Base and the U.S. Northern Command.
- Hosted a veterans' State of the State breakfast at the Governor's Residence in January 2009. Also, hosted families of deployed National Guard members at the Governor's Residence for Christmas, Easter and other occasions.
- Attended Veterans Day celebrations sponsored by the City of Aurora, the United Veterans Committee, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #1. Has attended and spoken at annual remembrance ceremonies at Fort Logan National Cemetery.
- Addressed citizen-soldiers at the Colorado Army National Guard Change of Command where Col. Dana Capozella succeeded retiring Brig. Gen. Thomas Mills.
- Addressed the 2009 statewide convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- Met with Rear Admiral Albert Garcia III, Deputy Commander Navy Civil Engineers.
- Supported efforts to get military veterans involved with the New Energy Economy. Gave commencement address at Veterans Green Jobs graduation ceremony.
- Signed employer support agreements with the U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S. Navy Reserve to encourage more public and private sector hiring and retention of reservists.
- Toured the Fisher House, which provides free lodging to the family members of Veterans Administration hospital patients. Visited State Veteran Nursing Homes and National Guard armories around the state.
- Visited Fort Carson and issued a proclamation supporting the Helmets to Hardhats Program, which places returning military veterans in construction jobs.

- Visited the Colorado Army National Guard readiness center in Alamosa and received a briefing from Company D, 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry “War Horse” Soldiers who work and drill at the temporary facility at Alamosa Airport.
- Hosted His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Prince Feisal bin al-Hussein al-Hashemi, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Jordan Armed Forces, at an official State dinner in the Governor's Residence.

■ **Joint Operations and Emergency Response**

- **DNC** – After 18 months of training, more than 1,500 Colorado National Guard members and 300 members from Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska and Georgia assisted during the Democratic National Convention in August 2008.
- **Emergency Responses**
 - Activated 345 Guard members in support of Hurricane Gustav, the Alamosa salmonella contamination, Pinon Canyon wildfires, the Windsor Tornado and the blizzards of 2006 and 2007.
 - Supported 22 Search and Rescue missions, the California wildfires of 2007, and support to USNORTHCOM for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.
- **8th Civil Support Team (WMD)** – Responded to Democratic National Convention, Sodium Cyanide incident, Senator McCain’s visits to Durango and Grand Junction, and white powder incident at campaign headquarters for Senator McCain.
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection/Mission Assurance Assessment** – Conducted 115 assessments and conducted 35 classes.
- **National Guard Communications Element** – Responded to the Windsor Tornado and the DNC.
- **Colorado Joint Counterdrug Task Force**
 - Assisted in 350 arrests and seizure of \$6.6 million in currency and drugs valued at \$71.8 million.
 - Received approximately \$105,000 in federally forfeited assets, to be used in the fight against drug abuse and related crime and narco-terrorism.
 - Provided drug abuse prevention education to over 78,000 Colorado youth.
- **State Partnership Program**
 - One of only three states with two international partnerships (Slovenia and Jordan), providing partner countries with access to experts within Colorado on military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian activities.

■ **Army National Guard**

- The Colorado Army National Guard currently has 569 deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and 4 deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Another 160 are preparing for mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Returned 970 members from support of OEF, OIF, and the Horn of Africa.
- The “Grow the Army” initiative will increase strength by 810 new jobs.

■ **Air National Guard**

- For FY 2009, trained, deployed and returned 400 personnel in the 140th Wing in support of combat air power operations to Operation Iraqi Freedom and other operations in Afghanistan, Curacao, Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, and Kuwait
- 15 Airmen are currently deployed.
- Maintained 24/7 Air Sovereignty Alert with 2 F-16s and crews at Buckley AFB.
- Increase from 15 to 18 F-16 aircraft resulting in growth of 120 new jobs.
- Broke ground on a \$7.3 million Fighter Squadron Operation building, utilizing a local contractor and creating local civilian jobs.

■ **Civil Air Patrol**

- Received two new Cessna Aircraft.
- Conducted 173 search and rescue missions, saved three people and located 20.

■ **Funding Items**

- Requested \$200,000 in FY09-10 for the Dept. of Human Services to begin planning for a proposed residential care facility for veterans on the Fitzsimons campus in Aurora.
- Requested an additional \$220,354 for the Colorado National Guard Tuition Assistance Program for FY09-10.
- Board of Veterans Affairs worked with Governor and Legislature restoring \$2.9 million to the Veterans Trust Fund.
- Increased funding for County Veteran Office Payments in Arapahoe, Denver, El Paso, Jefferson, and Mesa counties.
- Approved Department of Human Services renovations to 46 residential cottages at the Veterans Center at Homelake.
- Assisted the Department of Human Services’ McCandless State Veterans Home in Florence in obtaining acceptance into the prestigious Eden Registry.

- Requested \$585,000 (or 10.6 percent) increase in FY08-09 for Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, including a \$250,000 increase for armory maintenance and repairs and \$125,000 for County Veterans Service Officer Payments to help veterans claim earned benefits from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Administration.
- Administered 4,200 applications, qualifying 2,330, for the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption, as authorized by 2006 voter-approved Referendum E.
- Proposed for FY 2010-11 budget to use \$6.4 million from the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund and Real Estate Proceeds Fund to draw down \$1.3 million in federal matching funds and to secure an additional \$10 million in federal funds. The readiness centers will accommodate a new 800-soldier infantry battalion assigned to Colorado in 2007 as part of the Army's "Grow the Force" initiative.

■ **Family Programs**

- Received \$509,084 from Tax Check-Off for Military Family Relief Fund and provided 56 Family grants totalling \$362,204.
- Implemented a Yellow Ribbon program: Comprehensive and holistic training and support for service members and families.

■ **Division of Veterans Affairs**

- 2,070 client visits, 6,605 claims pending, and \$67 million in previous claims completed by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

■ **Board of Veterans Affairs**

- Awarded 24 grants totaling approximately \$2,110,579 from FY07-08 to FY09-10.

■ **Legislation**

- HB07-1251 (Gallegos/Wiens), Prop. Tax Exemption for Disabled Vets
- HB07-1275 (Rice/Penry), National Guard to Receive Forfeited Property
- SB07-014 (Taylor/Balmer), Appropriation of Funds for Nursing Homes
- SB07-086 (Kopp/Balmer), Fallen Heroes Memorial
- SB07-146 (Morse/Rice), Mental Health Services for New Veterans
- HB08-1078 (Buescher/Morse), Repay Colo. State Veterans Trust Fund
- HB08-1180 (Stephens/Shaffer), UI Benefits Active Military Transfer
- HB08-1252 (Rice/Shaffer), Tuition Assistance
- HB08-1317 (Gallegos/Tapia), Compact to Educate Military Children
- SB08-166 (Shaffer/McNulty), National Guard College Opportunity Fund
- HB09-1039 (McNulty/Kopp In-State Tuition Military Veterans
- HB09-1054 (Looper/Morse) UI Award Military Death Surviving Spouse

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

A native Coloradan and an avid sportsman, Gov. Ritter understands that one of Colorado's greatest assets is its healthy environment. Gov. Ritter and his administration are implementing responsible management strategies that provide greater protections for Colorado's forests, mountains, water, air, wildlife and communities. Major initiatives include:

■ **Climate Action Plan**

- Gov. Ritter issued Colorado's first Climate Action Plan, which calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050 through:
 - Expansion of energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy.
 - Reduced vehicle and utility power plant emissions.
 - An agricultural carbon-sequestration program.
 - Expanded "Greening of Government" efforts.

■ **Balance**

- Gov. Ritter is establishing policies to encourage a better balance between natural-resource protection and energy-development and mineral-extraction industries by:
 - Implementing a new, modernized set of rules under a more diverse Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to ensure oil-and-gas drilling is done responsibly and in a way that is compatible with other natural resource and public health values.
 - Calling for a thoughtful approach to oil shale development and a responsible approach for drilling in the Roan Plateau and Vermilion Basin.
 - Developing a Colorado roadless-area plan that improves on the 2001 Roadless Rule while responsibly addressing the state's unique conservation, community protection and economic needs.
 - Creating more transparency for mining operations such as uranium.
 - Restructuring Federal Mineral Lease revenue and severance tax dollars to increase protections for local communities.
 - Building a New Energy Economy that encourages a greater diversity of traditional and renewable resources.

■ **Water Quality and Supply**

- Putting \$62 million of American Recovery funds to work on wastewater and drinking water projects across the state.
- Updating Colorado's uranium mining regulations.
- Providing setbacks for oil and gas development near public drinking water supplies.
- Protecting minimum instream flow rights and signing the "Healthy Rivers Act of 2008."

- Securing a final decree in the Black Canyon case that resolves a longstanding dispute over flows in the Gunnison River in Black Canyon National Park in a way that protects both natural resources and existing water users.
- Helping facilitate the Record of Decision regarding future Colorado River Operations in the event of a “shortage” of water.
- Fighting the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.
- Requiring proof of sufficient water supply before developments of 50 or more single-family homes are built.
- Facilitating a seven-state, state-federal Colorado River apportionment agreement.
- Distributing \$130 million to borrowers for 40 different water supply projects from the CWCB’s Water Project Loan Program.
- Hosting a Governor’s Drought Summit to examine the effects of climate change on Colorado’s water supplies.
- Working with stakeholders to resolve water supply issues around the South Platte River, the Republican River Basin, and the Arkansas River Compact.
- Signing legislation that allows water court judges to consider environmental impacts and water quality along with water quantity when determining large permanent transfers.

■ **Forests**

- Securing \$10 million in Recovery Act funding to address forest health and fire danger due to beetle infestation.
- Establishing a Forest Health Advisory Council to advise on ways to address threats to Colorado’s forests, such as drought, wildfire and insect infestations.
- Creating a five-year program that allows landowners to deduct costs of wildfire mitigation up to \$2,500 from their state income tax from 2009 to 2014.
- Initiating and signing the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Act, which provides \$2.5 million to increase support for community and wildfire planning and preparedness and for projects that reduce risks and restore conditions in forested watersheds.
- Supporting SB-09 001, which establishes standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans and provides volunteer firefighters with tuition vouchers.
- Providing a sales-tax exemption for the sales, storage and use of wood products made from beetle-kill trees.
- Creating a voluntary fund for the removal of beetle-infested trees from state-owned land.

- Establishing funds to help communities implement forest health and wildfire-protection programs to safeguard homes and protect watersheds.

■ **Land and Wildlife**

- Issuing the final permit to the Pueblo Chemical Depot that will allow the Army and Department of Defense to construct the facility to treat and destroy more than 780,000 chemical weapons currently stored at the depot.
- Strengthening accountability for the Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program.
- Allowing communities to expand their open space programs.
- Implementing oil and gas rules that protect wildlife habitat and key species.
- Establishing incentives to develop long-term plans for avoiding wildlife impacts while responsibly drilling for oil and gas.
- Protecting 75,000 acres under the Habitat Stamp & Colorado Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program since 2007, including 21,000 acres of public access hunting and fishing.
- Launching an emergency winter-feeding program for deer, elk and other big game.
- Entering into a formal agreement with New Mexico to better protect wildlife corridors.
- Strengthening protections for bald eagles.
- Dedicating funding to species recovery.

■ **Air**

- Greatly expanding the Clean Diesel School Bus Retrofit Program.
- Establishing Colorado's first Climate Action Plan.
- Urging the Regional Air Quality Council to fast track a plan to reduce ozone air pollution in metro Denver.
- Adopting new requirements for mercury reductions from power plants.
- Developing a comprehensive, long-term plan to reduce nitrogen pollution in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Submitting a State Implementation Plan for reducing ozone levels to meet the 0.08 ppm air quality standards in the Front Range area, resulting in emission reductions of approximately 140 tons per day.

■ Legislation

- HB07-1130 (Gibbs/Fitz-Gerald), Forest Restoration Pilot Program
- HB07-1156 (Looper/Gordon), Disclose Source Residential Water Supply
- HB07-1168 (White/Fitz-Gerald), Forest Improvement Special Districts
- HB07-1180 (White/Isgar), Measure Wellhead Oil and Gas Accurately
- HB07-1252 (Roberts/Isgar), Oil and Gas Surface Owners and Operators
- HB07-1298 (Gibbs/Tochtrop), Conserve Wildlife Habitat Oil/Gas Development
- HB07-1305 (Massey/Schwartz), Extend Arkansas River Water Bank Program
- HB07-1341 (Curry/Isgar), Modify Membership Oil and Gas Community
- SB07-008 (Taylor/Curry), Expand Water Efficiency Grant Program
- HB08-1026 (Fischer/Schwartz), Colorado Water Institute
- HB08-1069 (Curry/Tochtrop), Motor Vehicle Public Land Prohibition
- HB08-1083 (Curry/Penry), Mineral Revenue Local Government Distribution
- HB08-1141 (Curry/Bacon), Require Sufficient Water Supply
- HB08-161 (Fischer & Kefalas/Johnson), Mining Reclamation Standards
- HB08-1269 (White/Gibbs), Sales Tax Exemptions for Beetle Killed Trees
- HB08-1280 (Fischer/Schwartz), Protect Leased Instream Flow Water Right
- HB08-1304 (Solano/Schwartz), Illegal Taking & Possessing Bald Eagles
- HB08-1318 (Lundberg/Taylor), Mitigate Pine Beetle Infestation
- SB07-22, HB-08 1346 (Curry/Isgar), Water Conservation Construction Fund
- HB08-1353 (Madden/Isgar), Verify Conservation Easement Tax Credits
- HB08-1414 (Buescher/Penry), Regulate Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Pits
- SB08-071 (Gibbs/Scanlan), Extend Forest Restoration Pilot Program
- HB07-1182 & SB08-168 (Curry/Isgar), Species Conservation Trust Fund
- SB08-218 (Schwartz & Penry/Buescher & Balmer), FML Revenues
- SB08-221 (Romer/Scanlan), Watershed Bonding for Forest Health
- SB08-226 (Isgar/Buescher), Aquatic Nuisance Species Prohibition
- HB09-1199 (Scanlan/Gibbs) Healthy Forests/Vibrant Communities
- HB09-1289 (Curry/Isgar) Species Conservation Trust Fund
- HB09-1292 (McGihon/Veiga) Rules Review– Approval of oil and gas rules update
- HB09-1303 (Curry/Isgar) Oil and Gas Produced Water
- HB09-1331 (Gagliardi/Boyd) Incentives for Efficient Motor Vehicles
- SB09-001 (Gibbs/Scanlan) Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- SB09-003 (Bacon/Fischer) Motor Vehicle Emissions Program
- SB09-022 (Bacon/Solano) SLB Investment and Development Fund
- SB09-125 (Isgar/Curry) CWCBC Construction Fund
- SB09-141 (Tapia/Looper & Pace) Fountain Creek Watershed District
- SB09-158 (Isgar/Baumgardner) Private Lands Conservation Initiative
- SB09-235 (Gibbs & Isgar/Merrifield) Habitat Stamp
- SB09-293 (Isgar/Curry) Severance Tax

PROTECTING PEOPLE

As a former criminal prosecutor, Gov. Ritter takes the business of protecting people and public safety extremely seriously. To keep the citizens and communities of Colorado safe, Gov. Ritter is implementing numerous crime prevention, homeland security and child protection initiatives.

■ Crime Prevention and Prison Recidivism

- At Gov. Ritter's direction, the Departments of Corrections, Public Safety and Human Services are enacting programs to reduce the rate of offenders who return to prison after their release. These efforts are slowing the growth of Colorado's prison population and reducing crime and will save taxpayers an estimated \$34 million over five years.
- Launched a mapping feature on the state's online sex offender registry. Arrested more than 158 sex offenders in a statewide, multi-agency effort called Operation Shepherd.
- Colorado's violent crime rate, already low in comparison to national rates (454.5 per 100,000 in population), fell even further in 2009, to 343.1.
- Traffic fatalities stand at 40-year lows, falling far faster than national trends.
- Motor vehicle theft has been driven way down since its 2005 peak, as a result of the State Patrol's special motor vehicle theft investigations and prevention efforts. The number of motor vehicles stolen in 2009 is half of what it was in 2005, saving motorists \$85 million.

■ Homeland Security

- Gov. Ritter consolidated and streamlined several homeland security functions into one Governor's Office of Homeland Security. After several years of negative performance audits from the federal government under the former governor, Gov. Ritter's Office of Homeland Security is receiving high marks from local and federal partners.
- In a major homeland security operation, the Colorado Information Analysis Center, which is run by the Colorado State Patrol, played a significant role in investigating two Aurora suspects who stand accused of planning terrorist acts against New Yorkers.
- Initiated a training program to help local public safety officers detect potential acts of terrorism, with more than 300 officers trained from every county in the state.

■ Protecting Children

- While Colorado has fewer deaths from abuse and neglect than the national average, one death is one too many. Therefore, Gov. Ritter ordered a comprehensive review aimed at improving the state's child-protection system. Gov. Ritter established a Child Welfare Action Committee. Over two dozen Committee recommendations are being implemented to improve prevention, consistency of services and access to evidence-based services, including establishment of the state's first Child Welfare Training Academy for child-protection workers.

- Established the School Safety Resource Center, which trained more than 600 school and local officials in school safety, consulted with more than 30 school districts in its first year, and received over 250 visits a day to its website. The Safe2Tell hotline for anonymous reporting of potentially harmful behavior among students has logged 5,000 calls. Reports have contributed to over 35 arrests, the prevention of at least 106 suicides and 28 planned school attacks.

■ **Reform and Safety Efforts**

- Gov. Ritter established the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, which is analyzing possible evidence-based reforms to the state's criminal justice system.
- Created a task force to propose changes to the state's DNA- and evidence-preservation policies, resulting in improved and strengthened DNA preservation policies.
- Convened a working group to study gaps in federal immigration and local law-enforcement laws. The working group's recommended changes to better link local authorities to federal immigration databases.

■ **Consumer Protection**

- Launched a consumer outreach program at the Department of Regulatory Agencies as required by HB08-1216 to educate consumers of their rights and professionals of their responsibilities. The Program is funded by fines paid by regulatory violators.
- Hosted several consumer protection fairs, call-in HelpCenters, and civil rights forums around the state.
- Re-opened regional state Civil Rights Offices in Pueblo and Grand Junction.
- Colorado has led a national push to rebuild the real estate industry from the damage brought by years of a hand-offs approach to regulation. A new regulatory program has levied fines and prevented unscrupulous individuals from receiving mortgage licenses under Colorado's updated laws.

■ **Legislation**

- HB08-1082 (Ferrandino/Bacon), allowing sealing of records after lengthy period
- HB08-1397 (Jahn & King, Kopp & Gordon), addressing DNA and evidence retention
- SB08-001 (Morse/Stephens), creating a School Safety Resource Center
- SB08-208 (Gordon and Mitchell/King and Jahn), addressing DNA retention sanctions
- HB09-1122 (Roberts/Morse), expanding eligibility for the Youthful Offender System
- HB09-1262 (Casso/Morse), addressing jail overcrowding
- HB09-1263 (Casso/M. Carroll), expanding county sheriffs behavior management tools
- HB09-1266 (McCann/M. Carroll), removing sanctions that impede successful reentry
- HB09-1351 (Pommer/M. Carroll), giving DOC another behavior management tool
- SB09-93 (Williams/Marostica), streamlining and strengthening identity theft statutes
- SB09-241 (Morse & S. King/Tipton), requiring DNA samples upon felony arrest

WORKING FAMILIES

Gov. Ritter is working hard on behalf of Colorado's working families, tackling the issues and challenges that are important to people all across Colorado, from healthcare to education to helping small businesses survive these tough times including:

- Implementing the most aggressive job-creation and business-development strategy in Colorado history, with a focus on manufacturing and key Industries of the Future such as energy, aerospace, biosciences, technology and tourism.
- Establishing Colorado as a national leader in the New Energy Economy, which is creating thousands of clean-energy jobs throughout the state.
- Expanding pre-school and full-day kindergarten for thousands of kids.
- Reforming K-12 education so that our children have the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy.
- Keeping college affordable and investing more new money into job-training and higher-ed than any other governor in state history.
- Reforming healthcare, including signing the most significant piece of legislation to control costs and expand access in 40 years. This legislation, the Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act, will provide health coverage to 100,000 uninsured Coloradans at no additional cost to taxpayers or employers.
- Enacting foreclosure prevention measures to help keep responsible families in their homes.
- Working with the federal government to increase and lengthen unemployment and healthcare benefits for thousands of laid-off workers.

■ **Protecting Middle-Class Families**

- HB07-1322, SB07-203, SB07-216 and SB07-085: Gov. Ritter signed a package of bills regulating mortgage brokers and confronting mortgage fraud. The package and vigorous enforcement of the new laws put Colorado at the forefront of the nation in stopping predatory and fraudulent mortgage lending.
- Maintaining the Colorado Foreclosure Hotline: The Hotline helps homeowners avoid foreclosure by connecting them with certified counselors. Most families who work with the hotline counselors save their homes.
- HB08-1180: Allows unemployment insurance for spouses of transferred military personnel.
- HB 09-1054: Grants unemployment insurance benefits to people who leave their job and relocate after their military spouse is killed in the line of duty.

- HB09-1076: Improves unemployment insurance for certain workers with Social Security or severance payments from an earlier job who lose a subsequent job. Expected to benefit 1,800 retirees and increase their unemployment insurance benefits by some \$2,700 each.
- HB09-1085: Supplements Colorado’s regulation of mortgage brokers, allowing Colorado to participate in a national database that tracks unscrupulous brokers. Also calls for more frequent license renewal and increases educational requirements.
- HB09-1109: Strengthens consumer protections against equity skimming and mortgage rescue scams.
- HB09-1183: Increases penalties for appraisal fraud, often an element of mortgage fraud.
- SB09-247: Modernizes unemployment benefits, bringing more than \$191 million in additional federal dollars to the state. The bill expands the number of people who are eligible for unemployment insurance, focusing in large part on low-wage workers.

■ **Colorado’s Labor Community**

- Gov. Ritter has taken numerous steps important to Colorado’s labor community:
 - Issued an executive order allowing state workers to again have union dues deducted directly from their paychecks and forwarded to employee associations.
 - Issued an executive order allowing employee associations to enter into non-binding employee partnership agreements with state government.
 - Signed HB07-1008, giving firefighters with cancer greater access to workers’ compensation support.
 - Signed HB07-1176, allowing injured employees to have a choice of doctors.
 - Signed HB07-1297, increasing and requiring the annual adjustment of workers’ compensation awards available for death and disfigurement.
 - Signed HB07-1366, requiring workers’ compensation coverage for virtually all people performing construction work on construction sites.
 - Signed SB07-123, creating the Elevator and Escalator Safety Act.
 - Signed SB07-137, mandating registration for plumbing contractors.
 - Signed HB09-1310, addressing the misclassification of employees as independent contractors.
 - Signed HB09-1136, which clarifies that only a licensed electrician is competent to work on standard types of electrical wiring.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Gov. Ritter announced early in 2007 a multi-year information technology consolidation plan to fold state government's decentralized operations into the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT). The plan is improving service while saving millions by breaking down old departmental silos and centralizing IT management, purchasing, spending, and planning.

■ **Information Technology Highlights**

- Enacted the "IT Consolidation Bill" (**SB08-155**), which codified the Governor's plan to consolidate information management for the Executive Branch and statutorily gave OIT the ability to begin the four-year effort.
- Developed and implemented Phase I of the Colorado Consolidation Plan. This plan will help the state reduce costs, improve service, increase coordination, and standardize technology usage, procurement, contracting, processes, and policies.
- Created a new project management governance structure for major IT projects. The Executive Governance Committees or EGCs replaced the former Commission on Information Management and is focused on bringing together key business and IT stakeholders from the various agencies to provide oversight, share expertise, and increase cross-departmental collaboration.
- Provided senior leadership through the EGCs which resulted in successful project completions, including Phases I and II for the Colorado Integrated Tax Architecture (CITA), the Colorado Lottery's migration to a stable back office system, the deployment of the Statewide Colorado Registration and Election System (SCORE), and the transition of CBMS to a new operational vendor.
- Re-negotiating statewide contracts with several IT vendors, expecting to save approximately \$2,000,000 as a result.
- Consolidating cell phone services are saving taxpayers approximately \$600,000.
- Completed the first phase of the CBMS Program Eligibility and Application Kit (PEAK) website. The new website is designed to provide better access to public programs for the most vulnerable Coloradans.
- Implemented the statewide Contract Management System (as required per SB07-228) on time and under budget. This enterprise project required coordination and collaboration across multiple state agencies.
- Released the final version of the Colorado First Responder Authentication Credential standard, which is an enterprise approach that will enable Colorado to provide a more seamless response to natural or man-made disasters.

■ **Broadband Accomplishments**

- Released a statewide Broadband Report and Map, created by **SB08-215** that will provide the starting point for developing a strategy for broadband service deployment to the state's underserved areas.
- Secured approximately \$2.1 million in Recovery Act funding to support broadband Internet mapping and planning activities throughout Colorado, expanding efforts initiated by **SB08-215**.
- Held three statewide broadband summits aimed at bringing together federal, state and local government, higher education and the private sector to develop strategies for extending and enhancing broadband Internet access throughout the state and to forge the partnerships needed to make statewide broadband connectivity a reality.
- The State CIO chaired the **SB07-196** Health Information Technology Advisory Committee which led the development of a long-term plan for the health IT in the State of Colorado to realize benefits, including: e-prescribing, coordination of care, cost efficiencies, and improved quality.

■ **Other Legislation**

- Established a reserve for the modernization of aging Unemployment Insurance IT Systems to help claimants better access their benefits (**SB09-067**).
- Established a formal board governed by OIT to develop the policies and procedures for implementing the departmental data-sharing protocols created by the **HB08-1364** council. The board is intended to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government, citizen service delivery, and policy-making by providing guidance and recommendations on how the state should govern and manage data and data management systems (**HB09-1285**).
- Increased government transparency by enhancing the state's budget and creating a searchable database website (**HB09-1288**).

RECOVERY ACT

Highlighting Colorado's leadership in the New Energy Economy, President Obama chose Denver as the stage for signing the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law on February 17, 2009. Gov. Ritter took immediate and decisive steps to put Colorado in a strong position to gain the maximum benefit from Recovery Act funds and to provide unprecedented transparency regarding how these dollars are being used to help reinvigorate Colorado's economy.

■ Oversight/Leadership

- The day after the bill signing at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Gov. Ritter appointed a 14-member oversight panel to help ensure that Recovery Act funds are spent wisely. The Colorado Economic Recovery Accountability Board meets monthly across the state to discuss urgent issues and to obtain updates on funded programs.
- Also on the day following the bill signing, Gov. Ritter appointed a small staff to work with state agencies to aggressively pursue Recovery Act competitive funding opportunities and ensure proper use and tracking of Recovery Act spending.
- Gov. Ritter established ambitious goals for transparency and accountability of Recovery Act spending in Colorado. The website www.colorado.gov/recovery was designed as the primary vehicle for helping the public track Recovery Act funds and was recognized as the second best website in the nation by Good Jobs First.
- Gov. Ritter appointed Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien to take the lead in applying for hundreds of millions of dollars in competitive education grants known as the Race to the Top program. With Lt. Gov. O'Brien's leadership, the state is considered a strong contender for these awards, which are expected to be announced in early 2010, and would continue to fuel Colorado's nationally recognized education reforms.

■ Legislation

- The Governor's Office worked with state lawmakers, state agencies and the Treasurer's Office to draft and pass four pieces of legislation to help put Colorado in the best position to take advantage of Recovery Act funds. They include:
 - House Bill 1346 allows Colorado agencies to use federal bond subsidies to finance major capital projects at a significant cost savings. So far, roughly a dozen agencies have taken advantage of Build America Bonds and Qualified School Construction Bonds to finance \$900 million of projects and saving more than \$150 million in interest.
 - House Bill 1349 helps workers who lost their job maintain health care coverage for a longer period. The Recovery Act pays for a higher percentage of the cost of the federal COBRA health coverage.

- Senate Bill 247 qualifies Colorado for more than \$120 million in federal aid by modifying Colorado's unemployment insurance provisions.
- Senate Bill 297 allows Colorado agencies to waive standard contract or procurement requirements to comply with Recovery Act deadlines. This law was intended to apply only to extreme cases and has thus far not been used.

■ **Helping Coloradans**

- The state took advantage of \$247.6 million in Recovery Act funds to pay for rising Medicaid program costs. Without these funds, the state faced eliminating the Child Health Plan *Plus* program, which serves more than 70,000 women and children.
- The Governor's Office dedicated \$760 million in Recovery Act funds to support public colleges, universities and critical state services like the corrections system, saving thousands of jobs that faced elimination because of severe revenue shortfalls.
- Coloradans who lost their jobs in the recession have received additional and extended unemployment benefits to help them stay in their homes and support their families.
- Approximately 1.8 million working families have been bringing home more in their paychecks since February because of the Making Work Pay tax cut.
- More than \$300 million in roadway projects overseen by CDOT have created thousands of jobs so far statewide.
- More than 850 small businesses have received loans at lower costs through the Small Business Administration to help them stay afloat.
- Significant investments in the New Energy Economy are helping Colorado businesses grow. Frederick-based UQM Technologies expects to hire 600 more workers because of a \$45 million grant to expand production of electric vehicle motors.
- Researchers at universities across Colorado have received scores of grants worth more than \$150 million.
- Dozens of Colorado companies, especially those in the New Energy Economy, have been awarded more than \$500 million in federal contracts, helping them to hire workers and expand.

LT. GOVERNOR BARBARA O'BRIEN

As Colorado's leading advocate for children's issues, Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien co-chairs Gov. Ritter's P-20 Education Coordinating Council for education reform. Recently named to a list of top 10 education reformers to watch nationally, Lt. Gov. O'Brien also is a major advocate for health and wellness. She chairs the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, is the state's spokesperson for the aerospace industry and oversees community service issues. Among her achievements since taking office:

- Spearheading the Colorado Race to the Top proposal for a federal education reform grant, putting Colorado in the spotlight as a national leader in education innovation.
- Co-chairing the P-20 Education Council, leading the development and implementation of recommendations to reform and continually improve Colorado's education system.
- Leading efforts to expand full-day kindergarten and pre-school for children statewide.
- Advocating for Colorado's children to reconnect to the outdoors through an 11-community tour.
- Creating the Colorado Kids Outdoor Bill of Rights: Ten activities that all Colorado kids should have the opportunity to experience before they grow up.
- Testifying before the U.S. House Education Committee on Colorado's experience with charter schools and why it is one of the important choices in education reform.
- Launching the Colorado Campaign to End Childhood Hunger by 2015 with Gov. Ritter, Sen. Michael Bennet, Share Our Strength, Colorado Coalition to End Hunger and others.
- Launching "Your Heart is in Your Hands," the Lt. Governor's Challenge to eat healthier and be more active. The online program encourages participants to set a goal and track their daily activity and food choices.
- Creating "ActionWorks" to link job-seekers with volunteer services and community service programs to encourage volunteerism as an integral part of comprehensive job-seeking strategy for the unemployed.
- Convening a series of roundtables with the Colorado Commission on Arts & Humanities on how Colorado's creative industries can assist in the state's economic recovery.
- Hosting "Creative Capitol" in the Lt. Governor's Office. This is a permanent rotating exhibit of artwork by Colorado artists, organized by the Colorado Council on the Arts.
- Implementing a national model that reburies Native American remains found on state and private property, through the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs and Colorado Historical Society. Sixty-eight culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains and associated objects were reburied in 2009.

- Convening the Early Childhood Councils Advisory Team and providing recommendations on the efficient functioning of the system of Early Childhood Councils on resource development, technical assistance and evaluation.
- Creating the first Early Childhood Councils Advisory Team to elevate the discussion on early childhood issues statewide.
- Promoting Colorado’s aerospace industry, the second largest in the country, as co-chair of the Colorado Space Coalition.
- Addressing the Eisenhower Center for Space & Defense Studies in Washington, D.C. in 2008, to discuss how states can invest in space and how Colorado is supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education for future aerospace workers.
- Serving on the board of LiveWell Colorado, a nonprofit organization that is a national model to reverse obesity rates.
- Leading a group of Colorado educators, including Colorado Department of Education Commissioner Dwight Jones, to Harvard to create a Colorado plan for early childhood education in 2008. Colorado is one of only five states selected to continue working with Harvard on the plan.
- Organizing the first personal trip by a lieutenant governor in 2007 to the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute reservations in more than eight years.
- Working with the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs to help negotiate an agreement with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe that allows members to exercise their year-round hunting rights under the 134-year old Brunot Treaty, while respecting their neighbors and Colorado’s wildlife management practices.
- Working with the Governor’s Commission on Community Service (GCCS) to expand the federal AmeriCorps grant program and increase the number of AmeriCorps in Colorado. Also, GCCS will add nine additional VISTA employees using a 2008 grant to address poverty and natural disasters around the state. The GCCS was chosen “Partner of the Year” by the Colorado Youth Corps Association in 2008.
- The GCCS awarded \$1.3 million in Recovery Act funding to seven nonprofit organizations and government agencies. The funds will make it possible to recruit 812 AmeriCorps members who engage in a variety of community and civic service activities across the state, including mentoring, environmental remediation, energy efficiency assistance to the low income and elderly, youth leadership training, job training, and homelessness prevention.
- The GCCS awarded \$2.6 million to 17 nonprofit organizations and government agencies throughout Colorado. The funds make it possible to recruit 393 AmeriCorps members to engage in a variety of human service, social service and priority community service needs and civic service activities across the state.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

As a \$16 billion-a-year industry in Colorado, agriculture is one of the most important economic sectors in the state. Gov. Ritter and Agriculture Commissioner John Stulp are making important strides in protecting Colorado's agriculture economy and helping Colorado's rural communities find new opportunities and new ways to thrive.

- The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is protecting Colorado's livestock industry by designing the Colorado Livestock Security System. With the passage of the Livestock Information Security Act (35.57.9 C.R.S.) in 2007, the Department will be able to expand efforts and protect personal information.
- Colorado is now ranked 2nd in U.S. winter wheat production, with an estimated 98 million bushels of winter wheat harvested, ranking only behind Kansas.
- Colorado's beef exports surged in 2008 to \$472 million, up 55 percent from 2007. Colorado is the No. 1 or 2 supplier in our four top markets of Mexico, Canada, Japan and Korea. Colorado's exports of beef increased 33 percent faster than the total U.S. exports. While in 2009 U.S. and Colorado beef exports were down, Colorado remained third in state exports of beef.
- CDA advanced Colorado's New Energy Economy by funding 14 agricultural renewable energy grants totaling more than \$620,000 in 17 Colorado counties through the Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) grant program in 2009. Since 2007, 35 ACRE grants totaling almost \$1.5 million in 28 Colorado counties have been awarded. Projects have focused on the development of wind, solar, micro-hydro, and biomass resources, as well as the development of biofuels.
- CDA performed tuberculosis tests on more than 5,000 dairy cattle that had contact with exposed cattle imported from other states. Testing found no animals with TB and Colorado continues to maintain its TB Accredited Free Status.
- The USDA initiated the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program in Colorado to help qualified veterinarians offset loan debt in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations. This is a result of the plan to address veterinary shortage areas in Colorado.
- CDA's Animal Industry Division participated in the Kansas and Oklahoma Livestock Stop Movement Exercise in October 2009. Representatives from other state's animal health departments, Kansas and Oklahoma law enforcement, the states' departments of transportation and local county emergency managers met in a field exercise to stop livestock movements at two state border locations where livestock frequently travel.
- CDA's Bureau of Animal Protection supported local law enforcement agencies in cruelty investigations. There were 12,126 investigations performed, with 975 impounds and 4,859 warnings or summons issued. CDA and BAP were involved in a highly publicized unfit owner case in Weld County where 23 horses were seized.

- During fiscal year 2008-2009, the Brand Division inspected and verified ownership of 4,183,981 head of cattle and horses, bringing the three-year total to 12,756,448.
- In 2009, the Colorado State Fair paid-off all debt from bonds to build the Events Center, past equipment loan purchases and a loan to the State Treasurer's Office. With the Unclaimed Property Interest funds, the Fair made all outstanding payments in February. State Fair management implemented efficiencies to reduce the budget and expenses associated with the 2009 State Fair, creating a profit for the 2009 annual event.
- In cooperation with other state agencies and organizations, the Department initiated a major tamarisk biological control project in the Arkansas River watershed in 2009.
- The Department helped launch a carbon offset demonstration project with the Department of Public Health and Environment, Baca County Conservation District, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Colorado State University. This represents Colorado's first agricultural carbon sequestration program, and will provide a new source of income for farmers while helping to reach the state's climate goals.
- The licensing test for private pesticide applicator licenses is now available online.
- The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board has 84 licensed wineries in Colorado and more Colorado restaurants are now offering Colorado wine.
- The Fruit & Vegetable Inspection section responded to more than 4,100 requests for inspection of potatoes, sweet corn and other produce in FY09.
- The Markets Division awarded more than \$625,000 to 17 agricultural groups to enhance and promote Colorado fruits, vegetables, horticultural and nursery crops through the USDA Specialty Crops Block Grant Program.
- The Colorado Proud program helped promote Colorado grown, raised and processed food to consumers. Sixty-seven percent of grocery shoppers between the ages of 25-54 are aware of the program and are reporting increased purchasing of Colorado products.
- In 2008, the Inspection and Consumer Services Division was awarded a \$245,000 grant through the USDA to support research in detecting food borne, disease-causing organisms, enabling the CDA to play a leading role in promoting a safer food supply.
- In 2008, CDA worked in cooperation with the Governor's Office to secure disaster assistance for agriculture producers in 54 counties affected by flooding, tornadoes, severe winter conditions, drought, extreme heat, high winds, hail, and grasshoppers.
- The number of certificates issued to allow for export of Colorado commodities to foreign countries has increased in the last three years from 2,200 in FY06 to 3,360 in FY09.
- Colorado's agricultural products are exported to 99 countries.
- The number of CDA certified organic farms has increased from 116 to 197 in the last three years.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for 22,550 prison inmates and 11,500 parolees. The DOC is taking a leading role in Gov. Ritter's crime-prevention efforts, specifically programs aimed at reducing the rate of offenders who return to prison after their release. Twelve anti-recidivism programs are providing education, vocation, job training, mental health, substance abuse, youth diversion and other services. These programs are preventing crimes, keeping communities safe and saving tens of millions of dollars.

■ Crime Prevention and Prison Recidivism

- With the crime rate falling and Gov. Ritter's anti-recidivism programs taking effect, over the past three years the DOC has been experiencing a slowing of prison population growth. In FY05-06, the average monthly growth rate was 97 inmates per month. In FY08-09 it was 15 offenders per month. Over the past three years, the DOC has been experiencing a slowing of prison population growth. In FY05-06, the average monthly growth rate was 97 inmates per month. In FY08-09 it was 15 offenders per month.
- The JEHT Foundation awarded the DOC \$321,500 in 2007 for a "Statewide Training on Re-Entry" project. The project is focused on creating long-term systemic change to reduce the rate of recidivism and increase public safety.
- In 2008, the Division of Adult Parole, Community Corrections and Youthful Offender System (YOS) implemented a Pre-Release Program in 19 DOC facilities. The program is designed to prepare inmates to transition to the community. In 2009, the DOC partnered with Colorado State University to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.
- In 2007, the DOC partnered with the Department of Revenue on a pilot program that makes valid state identification cards available to eligible inmates upon release. Proper ID is necessary for obtaining work and housing, key factors in successful community re-entry and reducing recidivism. The collaboration between departments is ongoing.

■ Prisons

- The DOC earned the American Correctional Eagle Award, making Colorado only the fourth state to earn the honor.
- The DOC broke ground on the 948-bed Colorado State Penitentiary II County in 2007. This high-security facility will be completed in 2010 and opened when resources allow.
- The DOC decommissioned the Colorado Women's Correctional Facility in June 2009.

■ Economic & Workforce Development

- YOS is collaborating with the Colorado Buildings and Trades Council to offer apprenticeship programs in the construction trades to young offenders.
- The DOC partnered with local farmers to provide female inmate labor from the La Vista Correctional Facility to several family farms in the Pueblo area in 2007. The program

was expanded to Delta County. In 2008, a second group of Pueblo County farmers requested the program. The program now has eight crews working at 10 family farms.

- Adult Parole and Community Corrections partnered with the Aurora Community College Peace Officers Standards and Training Academy, offering a discounted rate for community and parole officer candidates who complete the 16-week academy.
- In partnership with the Corrections Training Academy, Adult Parole and Community Corrections developed a Community-Parole specific Training Academy – The RECLA Academy (Resource for Education/Career/Leadership/Advancement) in 2007. Four classes graduated the academy in 2008, with an additional class graduating in 2009.
- On two occasions in 2008, the Denver Complex hosted a career and resource fair for offenders from Denver Women’s Correctional Facility and Colorado Correctional Center. In October, more than 150 prospective employers were on site to interview offenders and discuss future employment potential.
- In 2009, DOC developed a collaborative partnership with Colorado WINS. “Interest Based Bargaining” training was completed by 240 employees. The Department is developing a Memorandum of Understanding to memorialize the partnership’s progress.

■ **Community Partnerships**

- The U. S. Forest Service contracted with Colorado Correctional Industries to remove beetle-kill hazard trees from campgrounds. Beginning in June 2008, two crews have worked multiple campgrounds in the Medicine Bow-Routt and Arapahoe National Forests. The contracts continued and were expanded in 2009.
- The DOC partnered with Pueblo Community College to provide college courses to YOS offenders and women inmates at La Vista Correctional Center.
- Since January 2009, the DOC has been working in partnership with the U.S. State Department and the governments of Guatemala and Mexico as part of the Merida Initiative on prison reform. Two groups of Mexican prison personnel have visited Colorado to study DOC systems and operations.
- In April 2009, the DOC partnered with Voices of Victims and the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance, sponsored the inaugural “Victims Organized in Correctional Exchange” meeting. The gathering opened a dialogue that allowed victims to voice their concerns and provide insight to help improve the system. Meetings are held quarterly.

■ **Energy Conservation and Government Efficiency**

- The DOC is aggressively complying with Gov. Ritter’s “Greening of State Government” directives by conducting energy audits at state prisons, implementing paper recycling and electronic-recordkeeping programs, and continuing to replace fleet vehicles with flex-fuel and hybrid vehicles.

DEPT. OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING

Gov. Ritter is making significant progress on the three legs of the health care reform stool: reducing costs, improving quality and increasing access. The reform efforts are managed by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), which serves over 800,000 low-income individuals through Medicaid, Child Health Plan *Plus* and a variety of other programs for families, children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

■ Increasing Coverage and Providing Access to Care

- The Department is partnering with counties, providers, advocates and vendors to decrease administrative burdens for the growing number of families applying for public insurance.

Medicaid Enrollment

January 2007 – 389,387

January 2008 – 388,471

January 2009 – 436,349

November 2009 – 489,612

CHP+ enrollment

January 2007 – 47,671

January 2008 – 61,393

January 2009 – 64,604

November 2009 – 70,574

- Gov. Ritter signed the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act into law 2009, providing coverage to an additional 100,000 uninsured Coloradans and helping to improve quality and control costs – without any additional burden to taxpayers or employers.
- Colorado was one of 13 states to receive the federal Health Resources and Services Administration grant for \$43 million to increase health care coverage.
- HCPF was awarded a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to develop a strong infrastructure to support employment and health care coverage for people with disabilities.
- HCPF won a \$75,000 grant from The Colorado Trust to increase enrollment in Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus*.
- Since 2007, HCPF has awarded approximately \$80 million to health care providers serving the uninsured with grants from the Primary Care Fund.
- HCPF is helping more than 6,000 Coloradans plan for long-term care, providing them with greater control over their assets through Long-Term Care Partnership insurance.

■ Reducing and Containing Costs

- HCPF is aggressively eliminating Medicaid and Medicare fraud and waste and detecting abuse, recovering nearly \$374 million since July 2006. Recoveries have increased in part due to the purchase of smarter technology to detect provider fraud as recommended by Gov. Ritter's Government Efficiency and Management (GEM) Review in 2007 and 2008. Because of Colorado's demonstrated success in collecting recoveries, Colorado has been selected by the federal government to participate in a pilot project to identify provider fraud and improve the efficiency of recoveries.

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- In January 2007, Gov. Ritter signed an executive order to implement a Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Colorado Medicaid. The PDL promotes clinically appropriate utilization of pharmaceuticals in a cost-effective manner. Twenty drug classes are on the PDL.
- Medicaid experienced over \$4 million in cost-avoidance measures from February to December 2008 due to the PDL. Approximately 77 percent of the cost-avoidance was obtained through supplemental rebate negotiations.
- At the direction of Gov. Ritter, Colorado Medicaid no longer pays for medical errors. This policy results in improved patient safety, decreased Medicaid costs and saves taxpayers money.
- Medicaid has adopted a policy of denying payment for hospital readmissions that occur within 24 hours of discharge for a related condition. This policy will encourage better patient support during and after a hospital discharge and save taxpayers money.
- To ensure quality of care for and the quality of life of residents, HCPF adopted a Pay-for-Performance program which offers financial incentives to nursing homes to provide higher quality services.
- In August 2009, Colorado Medicaid began requiring all outpatient clinics to obtain prior authorization for non-emergent CT and non-emergent MRI and all PET scan, saving taxpayer money.

■ **Improving Health**

- The new Center for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC) is creating five-year goals in the areas of cost-containment; consumer engagement; health and access; and accountability and transparency. CIVHC is creating a statewide All Payer Claims Database to further develop quality and cost-containment initiatives and to transform payment and delivery systems.
- HCPF has embarked on an aggressive campaign to provide all Medicaid and CHP+ children a dedicated “Medical Home.” A Medical Home is a team approach to provide quality and cost-effective health care that is family-centered, comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, and culturally-competent. This integrated, coordinated approach contains costs, improves health and reduces the need for emergency or complex care services. Some 236,000 Medicaid and CHP+ children are now involved in Medical Home care.
- HCPF is improving the quality of care received by Medicaid’s highest-need, highest-cost clients by enrolling more than 2,300 clients in a program that provides intensive care coordination and supplemental benefits – the Colorado Regional Integrated Care Collaborative sponsored by the Center for Health Care Strategies.

- HCPF is expanding Medicaid coverage to help clients quit smoking successfully. This common-sense policy results in improved client health and reduced Medicaid costs through a decrease in tobacco-related hospitalizations and provider visits.
- HCPF is improving access to prenatal care for mothers, increasing opportunities for babies to get a healthy start to life and become healthy adolescents and adults.
- In 2009, the Department expanded its PACE program (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), now serving nearly 2,000 elderly Coloradans. PACE is a Medicare/Medicaid managed care system that provides health care and support services to people 55 and older, assisting frail individuals to live in their communities as independently as possible by providing comprehensive services depending on their needs.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Colorado Department of Human Services oversees programs that protect children, serve the mentally ill and developmentally disabled, and provide 24-hour nursing-home care for military veterans. DHS also operates the state's juvenile corrections system.

■ **Behavioral Health and Housing**

Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs

- The Division of Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs received an award of more than \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide permanent supportive housing for 210 homeless veterans in Colorado.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration granted funds to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness in Colorado Springs. The grant will be administered through a partnership between Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group and the Division of Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs.

Division of Behavioral Health

- Colorado received a federal grant to reduce healthcare costs associated with substance abuse by more effectively identifying people at risk for addiction and substance abuse disorders and has screened 21,426 people to date.
- The Division secured a federal grant to provide jail diversion services to the rapidly growing population of veterans within Colorado, directly linking them to treatment services that will support recovery from a range of trauma spectrum disorders. More than 1,500 veterans will receive services over the five-year life of the project.
- The Division received a federal grant to help adolescents and young adult methamphetamine users get treatment services.
- Two prevention programs funded by the Division's Communities Prevention Programs section will receive the *2009 Building Evaluation Capacity for Evidenced-Based Interventions*. The two programs are the Colorado Family, Education, Resource & Training program at Colorado State University Extension and the Colorado Fetal Alcohol Spectrum & Prenatal Substance Abuse Prevention Outreach Project at the University of Colorado Denver.
- Gov. Ritter created the Colorado Behavioral Health Cabinet, an inter-departmental effort to improve behavioral health services. As part of this initiative, Colorado received one of 11 Transformation Transfer Initiative contracts from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Colorado received one of 11 Transformation Transfer Initiative contracts from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

- The DBH/Child Care pilot program received a one-year \$1 million grant from the Statewide Strategic Use Fund. This initiative will place mental health consultants in childcare settings. Three regions of the state will pilot a comprehensive approach to mental health consultation.
- Colorado is one of only four states to be awarded the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Partnerships for Success: State and Community Prevention Performance grant.

Domestic Violence Program

- The Domestic Violence Program increased funding for services to victims by \$1.5 million associated with the passage of SB 09-068 and an award from the strategic use fund to work with county TANF offices to assist domestic violence victims. In addition, Governor Ritter signed an Executive Order requiring state agencies to develop a universal workplace violence policy, including domestic violence in the workplace.

■ **Children, Youth and Families**

- ***Division of Child Welfare.*** Integration of services for multi-system families and children is now active in 29 Colorado counties through the Collaborative Management Program developed under House Bill 1451. The program will improve service delivery for families in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, education and health/mental health/public health.
- ***Division of Youth Corrections.*** The Division of Youth Corrections has developed a Continuum of Care initiative that involves a state-of-the-art assessment, enhanced treatment services within residential facilities and improved transitions to appropriate community-based services.
- ***Division of Child Support Enforcement.*** In July 2008, Colorado became the first state in the nation to intercept gambling winnings from casinos and racetracks for past due child support. In the first year, families received over \$523,000 in support as a result of this new law.
- The Division of Child Support Enforcement and the Colorado Judicial Department successfully completed the statewide rollout of the Data Information Sharing system. The project, funded by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, allows for sharing of information in child support cases.

■ **Self Sufficiency and Independence**

- ***Child Welfare, Administrative Review and Field Administration.*** DHS Executive Director Karen Beye ordered a comprehensive review to examine commonalities among deaths of children from abuse and neglect, and craft recommendations to improve the state's child-protection system. Gov. Ritter also established a Child Welfare Action Committee and the State Board of Human Services passed a comprehensive rules package, both designed to further improve child protection in Colorado.
- Over two dozen Committee recommendations are being implemented to improve prevention, consistency of services and access to evidence based services to treat and

prevent child abuse issues including establishment of the state's first Child Welfare Training Academy for child-protection workers.

- ***Division of Child Care.*** The Division received approximately \$24 million in Recovery Act funds, using more than \$20 million to provide child care for more than 2,800 additional children through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.
- ***Aging and Adult Services.*** Colorado was one of eight states selected to participate in the National Governors' Association's Center for Best Practices Policy Academy, "Civic Engagement: Engaging Seniors in Volunteering and Employment." The purpose is to help connect seniors with information on a new career, enrolling into lifelong learning programs and contributing to their community through volunteer opportunities.
- ***Colorado Works.*** The Statewide Strategic Use Fund was created through legislation in 2007 and this year distributed its second round of 22 grants totaling \$9.7 million, including a nearly \$1 million grant to 13 southern Colorado counties to provide services, using a continuum of care model.
- ***Vocational Rehabilitation.*** The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation began a Veterans Initiative, designed to include any and all organizations that serve veterans.
- ***Traumatic Brain Injury.*** The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Trust Fund collaborated with the TBI community on an Executive Order, signed by Gov. Ritter, giving CDHS the lead role across state agencies to eliminate barriers to services and better coordinate assistance to Coloradans with traumatic brain injuries.

■ **Veterans and Disability Services**

- ***Developmental Disabilities.*** The Division for Developmental Disabilities enrolled over 1,200 individuals into services with new funding of approximately \$68 million.
- The Division for Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing implemented federally required fee-for-service systemic changes to the Home and Community Based Services Medicaid waivers to improve standardization, transparency, and accountability in the developmental disabilities system.
- ***State Veterans Nursing Homes.*** The Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Home in Florence became the first State Veterans Nursing Home in the nation to be accepted into the Eden Alternative Registry. The Eden Alternative is a non-profit organization that views aging as another stage of development and growth instead of a period of decline.
- The State Veterans Nursing Home at Homelake Domiciliary cottages renovation project anticipates receiving gold LEED certification upon project completion in late 2009.
- Responding to veterans concerns, Senate Bill 09-056 was signed into law in 2009 giving DHS permission to divest the Trinidad State Nursing Home.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment oversees a wide array of services and programs, including workforce development centers, unemployment benefits and analysis of Colorado's economy. The Department is playing a key role in supporting Coloradans who have been impacted by the global recession, managing a tremendous increase in unemployment claims and providing job-training and re-employment skills.

■ Division of Unemployment Insurance

- Launched the Visa Colorado Automated Payment Card, a debit card that cuts administrative costs while providing unemployed workers their benefits faster and safer.
- In response to the economic crisis, the Division:
 - Recruited retirees and others to assist with claims-processing efforts.
 - Increased hours of operation to provide claims processing on Saturdays.
 - Updated telephony systems to answer an increase in calls. The average number of calls answered per week more than doubled during 2009, from 3,800 per week in the spring, to 12,000 calls per week in the fall and winter.
 - The Colorado Unemployment Benefits Line system, used for requesting benefit payments, was updated to increase system capacity from 4,000 calls a week to 30,000 calls a day.
 - Provided assistance to Spanish-speaking claims filers through a separate telephone number and queue, diverting 15 to 20 percent of callers from the main telephone line.
 - An outbound dialer system was implemented to notify claimants of important benefit information via a recorded telephone message.
 - Several Internet services have been and are being developed, including an online customer application; more than 3,500 claimants have registered.

■ Unemployment Insurance Modernization

- Received \$3.1 million in supplemental funds from the U.S. Department of Labor to improve services for UI claimants and employers.
- Expanded UI benefits through SB09-247, which enabled the state to receive and expend \$127.4 million in federal UI Modernization funds.

■ **Workforce Development**

- Launched an energy-sector workforce initiative to recruit and train skilled workers. Partners include the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Northwest Forum, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Workforce Centers and economic development representatives from around the state.
- Administered more than \$5 million in federal grants for job placement assistance, including one grant to help military spouses find work.
- Colorado Workforce Centers used Workforce Investment Act funds to create jobs in Boulder, Fremont, Jefferson, and Larimer counties. Also, a \$500,000 grant was awarded to Colorado to train veterans for green jobs.
- In 2009, 59,787 youth participated in the annual Governor's Summer Job Hunt and 3,213 youth had paid work experiences through the Recovery Act Summer Youth Program.

■ **Workers' Compensation**

- Colorado's workers' compensation premiums were ranked 9th lowest among all the states, as found by a study performed by the State of Oregon. The Division's Prehearing Unit resolved over 20,000 motions relating to workers' compensation cases.
- The workers' comp division helped reduce medical bills for workers' compensation cases by more 33 percent through a new medical fee schedule.
- The division implemented HB07-1176 (M.Carroll/Tochtrop), helping injured workers with additional physician choices.
- Employers taking part in the Premium Cost Containment Program have saved more than \$27 million by preventing workplace accidents.

■ **Division of Oil and Public Safety**

- At the City of Denver's request, the Department assumed responsibility for 8,000 city and county boiler and pressure-vessel inspections.
- The Petroleum Storage Tank Fund Section has processed 6,329 applications.
- Issued 529 "No Further Action" letters for previously contaminated sites.
- Monitored and closed cases for 252 petroleum-contaminated sites.
- Administered \$2.5 million in Recovery Act funds for cleanup of approximately 30 petroleum contamination sites from underground storage tanks, with an additional 11 sites to be completed in the near future.

■ **Division of Labor**

- Recovered \$1.5 million in unpaid wages for Colorado employees, responded to 6,500 inquiries and complaints, and more than 1,000 employees benefited financially from the Division's mediation and conciliation processes.
- Received over 45,000 phone calls from the public to its call center, and handled thousands of additional direct calls to employers and employees.
- Facilitated contract negotiations between the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1001 and the Regional Transportation District.
- Initiated over 600 audits of employers under the employment verification and public contracts for services laws.
- Improved online public guidance offerings, including labor and employment law publications, fact sheets, and extensive website content.

■ **Legislation**

- HB08-1400, Authorizes the Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Donations
- SB08-231, Transfer of Workforce Development Council from DOLA
- SB08-051, Additional Enforcement to Div of Oil and Public Safety
- HB08-1103, Regulation of Amusement Rides
- HB09-1054, UI Award Military Death Surviving Spouse
- HB09-1310, Employee Misclassification
- HB09-1363, Unemployment Compensation Enterprise
- SB09-076, Employment and Training Technology
- SB09-178, Unemployment Insurance Job-Attached Extension
- SB09-247, Expand UI Benefits Federal Stimulus Moneys
- SB09-258, Employee Leasing Company Acts
- SB09-292, Revisor's Bill

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is the main point of contact for local communities when they interact with state government. DOLA's mission is to strengthen Colorado communities, and in 2009 the Department launched a Sustainable Communities initiative to help improve the livability of every Colorado community.

■ Job Creation

- By making strategic investments in Colorado communities, DOLA helped create and support nearly 11,000 direct jobs statewide in FY07-08 and FY08-09.

■ Livable Communities

- DOLA has awarded grants for nearly 2,000 community projects since 2007, providing \$438 million which was used to leverage \$1.4 billion. Over the past two years, DOLA has improved its grant processes through better transparency, accountability and criteria.
 - DOLA has awarded more than \$322 million in Energy and Mineral Impact program grants for local infrastructure and public facility improvements, which leveraged nearly \$1 billion in additional funding from 2007-09.
 - DOLA has awarded more than \$13 million in Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Program grants from 2007-09.
 - DOLA-administered Community Development Block Grants have provided \$28 million for housing, economic development, public facilities and infrastructure projects in smaller counties and towns.
 - DOLA is distributing nearly \$12 million in Recovery Act funds through its Community Development and Community Services block grant programs. Since the Recovery Act's inception, DOLA has administered grant funds and assistance for three infrastructure projects and 40 self-sufficiency projects in rural Colorado.
 - In 2008 and 2009, DOLA implemented legislative changes to the Severance Tax and Federal Mineral Lease Direct Distribution and grant programs. The changes created a more equitable system for getting money to impacted communities and distributed more than \$80 million to counties, municipalities and schools in 2009.

■ Emergency Management

- DOLA's Division of Emergency Management provides crucial grant assistance to support local and state efforts, which results in safer communities:
 - Emergency Management Performance Grants and Pre-Hazard Disaster Hazard Mitigation Funds to local governments have totaled \$13.1 million since 2007.

- The Division maintains an emergency plan for the Pueblo Chemical Depot mustard agent stores, and has provided \$12.6 million in related grants since 2007 to Pueblo County and the Pueblo City and County Department of Public Health.

■ **Housing**

- From 2007-09, DOLA's Division of Housing has facilitated numerous affordable housing and homelessness-prevention grants and loans:
 - 2,778 low-income rental units developed through new construction, rehabilitation or acquisition;
 - 396 homeowners helped with down payment assistance;
 - 383 single-family owner-occupied homes rehabilitated;
 - 17 housing needs assessments funded;
 - An average of 3,000 households subsidized annually with rental assistance;
 - 40,180 homeless people received services from DOLA-funded shelters annually.
- The Division of Housing is managing the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) by working with local and federal partners to direct \$34 million into communities hardest hit by foreclosure. (The Division is also administering Colorado Springs' \$3.9 million allocation.
- The Recovery Act Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) is providing \$8.1 million in swift homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance to individuals or families. The Division is the lead for this program.
- DOLA also has an interagency agreement with the Colorado Department of Human Services under which DOLA is overseeing the use of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds (\$4.7 million in FY09-10) along with HPRP money to prevent families from becoming homeless.

■ **Providing Technical Assistance**

- The Division of Housing's Foreclosure Prevention Hotline (1-877-601-HOPE), has fielded nearly 90,000 calls since it was launched in 2006, helping homeowners avoid foreclosure. The approximately 18,000 counseling sessions stemming from the Hotline have resulted in over 16,000 households in crisis reaching a positive resolution.
- DOLA's State Demography Office provides population and demographic information, receiving more than 1 million hits on its website a year.
- The Division of Emergency Management achieved the Emergency Management Accreditation Program Award for the first time in state history in October 2009. This award certified Colorado's adherence to national standards/best practices.
- The Division of Emergency Management has led Colorado's response to and recovery from several major disasters since 2007, including three blizzards, two fatal tornadoes (in Holly and Windsor), public health incidences (salmonella outbreak in Alamosa and the H1N1 pandemic flu outbreaks), and the Democratic National Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources develops, preserves and enhances the state's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future citizens and visitors. It oversees state parks, forests, wildlife, oil-and-gas development, water conservation and mining.

■ Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

- Implemented the first comprehensive regulatory update in more than a decade to support the continued development of the state's oil and gas resources, encourage the use of up-to-date planning and technology, and provide additional protections for public health and the environment.
- Issued more than 19,000 drilling permits in 2007-09, more than the number of permits issued in any previous 5-year period in state history, including 5,000 permits in 2009 despite an unprecedented collapse in the price of natural gas. Colorado has more than 40,000 active oil and gas wells that are helping to meet the nation's energy needs.
- Reduced permitting times from more than 60 days at the beginning of 2009 to about 30 days by the end of the year.
- Implemented a paperless e-permitting system to improve permitting efficiency for operators and staff.
- Engaged 18 operators in the development of long-term Comprehensive Drilling Plans or Wildlife Mitigation Agreements that will reduce surface impacts while providing operators additional regulatory certainty and access to a streamlined permitting track.

■ Division of Wildlife

- Reauthorized the Habitat Stamp in 2009 to increase its buying power beginning 2011 from \$3.5 million to \$7.3 million annually. Almost 75,000 acres have been bought under Habitat Stamp & Colorado Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program since 2007 including 21,000 acres of public access hunting and fishing.
- Great Outdoors Colorado has awarded more than \$30 million to DOW projects since Jan. 1, 2007 for land acquisition, species protection, habitat enhancement, wetlands protection. Another \$3.7 million has been awarded for Habitat Stamp projects.
- The Habitat Partnership Program awarded \$500,000 in grants for habitat improvement projects on private land in 2009 to improve habitat for both wildlife and livestock to reduce big game/ private landowner conflicts.
- Under Gov. Ritter, DOW purchased a new 710-acre state wildlife area, Andrick Ponds State Wildlife Area, to provide premier waterfowl hunting opportunities along the South Platte.

- Initiated Shooting Range Grant Program through the DOW to provide \$500,000 in funding to shooting ranges and shooting areas in Colorado for hunter education, marksmanship training and youth shooting opportunities throughout the state.
- Entered into an agreement with New Mexico to better protect wildlife corridors.
- Provided more than \$900,000 in grants to 15 projects throughout the state to provide fishing access in 2009 through the Fishing is Fun program.
- Provided 7,100 acres of public hunting and fishing access outside of Gunnison with the new Snyder Ranch easement, including access to more than 8 miles of coldwater stream.
- Continued a cooperative research program with industry to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to wildlife from oil and gas development.
- During the winter of 2007-08, fed more than 9,500 deer and 600 pronghorn antelope to prevent starvation caused by record snowfall in the Gunnison Basin.

■ **Colorado Water Conservation Board**

- Distributed \$130 million to borrowers for 40 different water supply projects from the CWCB's Water Project Loan Program.
- Provided loans to the Republican River Water Conservation District to purchase water rights worth \$50 million to augment supply and help bring Colorado into compliance on the Republican River Compact.
- Approved \$40 million for 26 new water project loans throughout the state.
- Provided \$8 million in grants for water related programs and studies.
- Secured a final decree in the Gunnison River/Black Canyon National Park case that will protect natural resources and existing water users.
- Helped facilitate the Record of Decision regarding future Colorado River operations in the event of a "shortage" of water.
- Hosted the Governor's Drought Summit.

■ **Colorado State Forest Service/Division of Forestry**

- Successfully applied for \$10.7 million in Recovery Act funds to support 15 projects.
- Initiated and signed the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Act of 2009, which will provide funding for wildfire planning and preparedness, protect watersheds, and help create forest-health jobs.
- Supported and signed SB-09 001, which establishes standards for Community Wildfire Protection Plans and provides volunteer firefighters with tuition vouchers.
- Received \$8 million from the U.S. Forest Service for restoration and mitigation projects.

- Produced and distributed the annual Reports on the Health of Colorado’s Forests.
- Completed final draft of Colorado Forest Assessment to identify primary forest issues.
- Provided guidance and expertise to the General Assembly’s Wildland-Urban Interface Interim Committee and the Governor’s Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council.
- Completed the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment and assisted with the development of 109 Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

■ **Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation**

- Opened Colorado’s newest state park, the 16,000-acre Cheyenne Mountain State Park, which attracted more than 150,000 visitors in 2009.
- Continued to control the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species in the state’s waterways, inspecting more than 200,000 boats in 2009.

■ **State Land Board**

- Historic revenue performance. FY 2008-09 was the highest revenue year on record at \$75 million (\$74 million for School Trust).
- Increased by more than 100,000 acres the amount of state land board land leased for wind and solar renewable energy projects.
- Completed the significant Federal Baca/Sand Dune Land-for Land Exchange in 2009. 51,000 acres of State Trust property around the Great Sand Dunes National Monument were exchanged for 18,000 acres of federal land in Conejos, Fremont and Saguache counties.
- Completed the Emerald Mountain property disposal in 2007 that transferred 5,000 acres into the federal ownership. This allowed the School Trust to receive market value for the property and preserved the mountain backdrop for the City of Steamboat Springs.
- Expansion of the Investment and Development Fund in 2009 that allows the State Land Board to make investments into its property. The Fund has increased School Trust property value by \$11.5 million and annual revenues by revenues about \$2 million.

■ **Division of Water Resources**

- Conducted rulemaking to ensure the orderly and efficient processing of groundwater permits for the roughly 5,000 existing coalbed methane wells operating in the state. The rulemaking complies with the Colorado Supreme Court decision in the Vance case. A second rulemaking involving other oil and gas wells will occur in 2010.
- Secured final resolution of Arkansas River Compact suit with Kansas after 24 years of litigation. Filed rules and regulations in September 2009 to ensure compliance with the compact while improving the efficiency of water delivery systems.

- Continued effort to establish Subdistrict Plan of Water Management in the Rio Grande Basin to replace depletions to rivers due to groundwater pumping. A water court trial on the revised Subdistrict Plan trial was held in September/October 2009.
- At the same time, the State Engineer formed a Special Advisory Committee to assist in the development of overall Rules and Regulations regarding the use of groundwater in the Rio Grande Basin. Rules should be filed within the next few months.
- DWR is working with the CWCB to collect baseline data on prior and perfected water rights in the Colorado River system and to develop strategies to try and avoid initiation of a “compact call” on the Colorado River in the event long term flows on the Colorado require the upper basin States to limit water use.
- Passed bond issue in Yuma County to purchase remaining surface water rights on the North Fork of the Republican River and settled the Pioneer Ditch Litigation.
- Secured Kansas' agreement to accept a delivery of water as full restitution for past under-deliveries and to resolve certain long-standing disputes.
- Investigated build-up of groundwater pressure in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel and potential flooding as result of a landslide on the East Fork of the San Juan River.

■ **Colorado Geological Survey**

- Secured \$3.8 million in Recovery Act funds for “*Characterization of Most Promising Sequestration Formations in the Rocky Mountain Region*,” a public-private research project that will investigate the suitability of geologic formations deep under northwestern Colorado for long-term sequestration of carbon dioxide.
- Published the award-winning *Collapsible Soils in Colorado*, a comprehensive look at one of the most significant and damaging geologic hazards in Colorado.
- Published “*A Tourist’s Guide to Colorado Geology*,” a high-quality map and guide to the state’s geology and primer on the forces that created Colorado’s world-famous landscape.
- Updated “*A Guide to Swelling Soil for Colorado Homebuyers and Homeowners, Second Edition*,” on the most damaging geologic hazard in Colorado.
- Completed Raton Basin and Piceance Basin CBM Stream Depletion Assessment Studies.
- Finalized a comprehensive mapping of Colorado’s geothermal resources.

■ **Division of Mining, Reclamation and Safety**

- Held stakeholder meetings to review proposed rule changes to Colorado's mining regulations, stemming from three bills passed by the legislature in 2008: one that requires certain information about prospecting activities to be a matter of public record rather than confidential (Senate Bill 228); one concerning in situ uranium mining permit fees (Senate Bill 169); and the other concerning conditions for in situ uranium mining and designations for conventional uranium mining operations (House Bill 1161).
- Maintained oversight on 1,451 construction material mines, 113 hard rock mines and 250 prospecting sites, including approximately 180,000 acres under permit. Conducted over 550 inspections, managed nearly 196 new mining and prospecting applications and 445 mining and prospecting permit revisions.
- Ongoing regulation of 45 coal mine permits (including 10 producing operations) and 118 exploration sites, covering 164,000 acres. Conducted 426 inspections, and 215 permitting actions. The program recently received, and is reviewing, a new underground coal mine permit application from Sage Creek Coal Corp. for the proposed Peabody Sage Creek Mine in Routt County.
- Injected \$6.6 million dollars into Colorado's private sector for abandoned and inactive mine reclamation activities statewide. The Abandoned Mine Reclamation program safeguarded 317 hazardous mines and reclaiming 300 acres. Of the \$6.6 million, an estimated 85 percent went to Colorado small businesses, mostly in the civil construction segment of the economy.
- Approved a major expansion amendment for Cripple Creek and Victor site in Teller County.
- Coal mining production in 2007 was 36.1 million tons, an increase of 644,948 tons (2 percent) over 2006. In 2008, coal production was 32,777,000 tons.
- A new coal mine was approved in Fremont County.

DEPT. OF PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA) provides centralized human resources, information, tools, resources and materials needed for Colorado state government to function. DPA provides the infrastructure by which the rest of state government operates.

■ Engaging State Employees

- Expanded use of the State Employee Assistance Program (C-SEAP) by 10 percent, from 8,149 individuals in FY08 to 9,001 in FY09.
- Developed the Summer Symposium, a series of eight presentations to bring information and resources to state employees and their families.
- Working with the Governor's Office and multiple agencies and organizations, DPA led the effort to create a Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.
- Provided Bullying Prevention and Awareness Training to 560 employees, supervisors, and managers.
- Collaborated with the Department of Corrections to sponsor the Breast Cancer Peer Support Group for state employees.
- Implemented new screening, intervention and referral services to better identify and assist employees coping with substance abuse and depression.
- Developed a new Stateline feature entitled 'Pressure Points,' providing monthly articles regarding mental health issues, risky workplace behavior, wellness/healthy workplace activities and stress reduction.
- DPA/C-SEAP is now one of seven Colorado Crisis Education Response Network (CoCERN) Cooperating Partners, and is one of 26 agencies and organizations working together to provide behavioral health disaster response for Colorado.
- Conducted the first workforce opinion survey in several years, with 12,000 respondents. Data collected from this survey is shaping personnel policy and employee engagement.
- Professional Development Training program trained more than 3,000 state employees in FY09, from workplace ethics to Microsoft programs to state supervisor certifications.

■ Cost Avoidance/Savings

- DPA initiated SB 09-099 which authorizes the State Purchasing Office to accept previously uncollected vendor fees associated with state participation in cooperative price agreements, such as the Western States Contracting Alliance price agreements. This is a Governor's GEM initiative that enables state and local agencies and qualified non-profits to purchase from regional and statewide on-line catalogs at significant discounts.

- DPA partnered with the Colorado Non-Profit Association to pass HB09-1088 which permits the certification of certain non-profit organizations as a “local public procurement unit.” The certification allows such nonprofits to purchase supplies, services and construction from State Price Agreements. More than 70 non-profits have taken advantage of this opportunity.
- The SPO, utilizing State Price Agreements, saved state taxpayers \$1.7 million in FY09.
- The SPO negotiated a one-time payment of \$1 million as a signing bonus for extending the contract for the State’s Procurement Card for an additional year.
- Through the new “It’s a New Day” program, the number of workers’ comp claims decreased 342 in FY09 from FY08, saving \$3.3 million.
- State Fleet reduced the number of miles driven by 1.8 million, or 2.4 percent, in FY09, saving \$450,000, by encouraging employees to use teleconferencing, videoconferencing and other options.
- The State Travel Management Program successfully negotiated guaranteed pricing agreements with Choice and La Quinta hotel chains for room pricing at 10% to 30% below federal GSA rates. This is the first time the State has been successful in negotiating rates below the best federal rates, and is an opportunity for all in-state travelers to save money on business travel.
- The Integrated Document Solutions unit secured legislative authorization to lease-purchase a building housing its southern Colorado production center using the current rent appropriation. DPA exercised the option to purchase the existing 20-year lease agreement, saving approximately \$789,000 in scheduled base rent increases.

■ **Efficiencies**

- Initiated programs to accept on-line credit card payments for vendor registration in the State Bid Information and Distribution System (BIDS) in the State Purchasing Office, for payment of debts in the Central Collections Services Unit and for payment of registration fees for the Professional Development Center for State employees.
- The Integrated Document Solutions (IDS) unit successfully transitioned the imaging of 7.4 million tax documents from microfilm to digital scanning.
- The Mail Services unit became one of the first in the country to receive licensing from the U.S. Postal Service to “cleanse” and process bulk mailings. Mail cleansing ensures addresses in bulk mailing are current. Any undeliverable addresses will be automatically corrected or identified for elimination to save printing and mailing costs. This will save \$500,000 to \$1 million annually on postage.
- The Department, in conjunction with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), successfully implemented the Contract Management System (CMS) on schedule and under budget. This statewide-centralized system will improve the ability to track and manage contracts and streamline the overall contracting process.

- The Department, in conjunction with OIT and State Treasurer Cary Kennedy, successfully implemented the Transparency Online Project (TOP) system within existing budgetary and staff resources. The TOP system will reduce the time and cost associated with open records requests and to maximize convenience for state citizens in accessing state financial information.
- The Office of the State Controller in cooperation with OIT and the Governor's Recovery Office successfully implemented, on time and with no additional budget, a system to accumulate and report to the federal government all grant activity under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

■ **Greening Government**

- The SPO launched a new Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP). This policy will allow state agencies to strengthen environmental outcomes through purchasing decisions that cause less pollution and waste, conserve resources and habitats, minimize climate impact, and contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- Between FY08 and FY09, E-85 (ethanol) fuel use increased by 30,793 gallons, or 153 percent. This helps achieve the Governor's Greening Initiative for fuel reduction, supports the state's farmers and decreases the state's dependence on foreign oil.
- In October 2008, the Colorado State Capitol was awarded LEED-EB certification from the United States Green Building Council. The Capitol Building is the first state capitol to achieve this certification. It capped years of work to dramatically reduce the energy consumption of the building. Energy upgrades were paid for through utility savings of approximately \$1 million per year.
- In November 2008, the Governor's Residence was also awarded a LEED-EB certification, and is also the first Governor's residence in the country to achieve this distinction.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) protects and preserves the health and environment of the people of Colorado. The department manages air and water quality and other environmental programs along with disease control, children's health and a variety of public health services.

■ Health

- The Office of Planning and Partnerships created a public health plan mandated by SB 08-194 "Concerning Public Health."
- CDPHE increased vaccine access across the state by designating local health agencies as Federally Qualified Health Centers. Colorado's rate of vaccination for two years has improved to 79.4 percent. Colorado leads the nation in the vaccination rate of teens with Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular Pertussis) vaccine with 63 percent compared to the national average of only 40.8 percent.
- CDPHE launched a pilot program offering a secure and environmentally responsible way for people to dispose of unwanted medicines. Tamper-resistant collection boxes now are available at locations around the Denver metro area, Breckenridge and Dillon.
- The Laboratory Services Division tested more than 7,000 samples for H1N1 flu in 2009.
- CDPHE and the Division of Emergency Management led the response to the City of Alamosa's salmonella outbreak that sickened more than 400 people in March 2008.
- Colorado was the first state to engage a major, national private corporation in a partnership to educate consumers in emergency preparedness. The state teamed with 79 Colorado Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores to encourage residents to prepare their own home, office and car emergency preparedness kits. In one week, 1.5 million Coloradans visited Wal-Mart or Sam's Club to view sample emergency preparedness kit items on display and pick up informational brochures, available in both English and Spanish, with checklists to help consumers shop for their own kits.
- The Prevention Services Division's K-12 initiative to implement program activities based on the CDC's Guidelines for School Health Programs to Prevent Tobacco Use and Addiction reached 209,373 students in 408 schools, in 44 out of the state's 64 school districts. Among high school students, current cigarette smoking declined to 11.9 percent in 2008 from 14.6 percent in 2006 and 18.2 percent in 2001. Colorado has surpassed the CDC's Healthy People 2010 goal of 16 percent for current high school smoking.
- In November 2007, the first Colorado Hospital Report Card was published online for consumers to report infections acquired in hospitals and to expand reporting to cover infections acquired in ambulatory surgical centers (new in 2009) and, in the future, in dialysis centers. In November 2009, the second version of the Colorado Hospital Report Card was published. CDPHE designated the Colorado Hospital Association as the entity to create and maintain the report card and updated data on clinical measures.

- In January 2009, CDPHE released its second status report on the Health Facility Acquired Infections Disclosure Initiative. In meeting the requirements of the legislation, CDPHE added ambulatory surgery centers as reporting entities and will add outpatient dialysis centers in 2010. The department released two bulletins in 2009 addressing healthcare-associated infections in Colorado healthcare facilities.
- Under passage of SB 08-153, the state now requires home care agencies in Colorado to obtain licenses and be subject to state requirements. Previously, Colorado had been one of only five states that did not require licenses.
- Working with the Colorado Children's Trust Fund, the Prevention Services Division selected 17 agencies to receive \$350,000 for research-based child abuse prevention programs, and conducted investigations into the high rates of child abuse and neglect in rural Colorado counties.
- During the 2008-09 school year, two new school-based health centers opened, bringing the total to 44 school-based health centers in 18 school districts. Six new centers have opened since 2006-07.
- The Office of Health Disparities facilitated community discussions focused on health disparities and future planning strategies to reach racial and ethnically diverse communities with documented health disparities, to work on public health projects and to facilitate communication between the department and the community.
- The State Health Professional Loan Repayment Program awarded seven health professionals in 2009 who agreed to provide care to underserved Coloradans. Also in 2009, the Primary Care Office successfully acquired grants from federal and private sources to grow the program in 2010 from \$220,000 to \$1,820,000.
- Worked with 10 organizations to provide dental services in FY08 and as a result, 3,081 second-grade children in 234 low-income schools received 9,632 sealants on their first permanent molars, averting an estimated 2,444 cavities.
- Colorado was able to isolate the national outbreak strain of Salmonella Saint Paul from jalapeno peppers and link it to a human case. The state's Consumer Protection Division helped prevent the further spread of this food-borne outbreak, resulting in reduced numbers of reported cases by coordinating the quick removal of implicated tomatoes, jalapeno peppers and Serrano peppers from Colorado retail markets.

■ **Environment**

- CDPHE participated in the development of a new, modernized set of oil and gas rules under a more diverse Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which provides for responsible oil-and-gas drilling in a way that is compatible with other natural resource and public health values.
- The state's Air Quality Control Commission approved the 10-year revisions to the air quality plans for both the Telluride and Pagosa Springs areas.

- By the end of 2009, CDPHE had put \$62 million of Recovery Act funds to work on wastewater and drinking water projects across the state. Currently, about 95 percent of wastewater and 85 percent of drinking water Recovery Act dollars are under contract or in construction.
- CDPHE issued the final permit to the Pueblo Chemical Depot allowing the military and its contractor to construct the facility that eventually will be used to treat and destroy more than 780,000 hazardous waste chemical weapons currently stored at the depot.
- The Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) greatly expanded the Clean Diesel School Bus Retrofit Program that has reduced exposure to toxic chemicals for thousands of Colorado schoolchildren. The program has retrofitted hundreds of school buses statewide.
- The APCD greatly expanded its air-quality monitoring network in Colorado to include new ozone and other monitors at sites in Aspen Park, Aurora, Cortez, Fort Collins, Palisade, Rifle, Denver, Kersey and Platteville.
- CDPHE recognized more than 80 companies for their outstanding environmental achievements. The awards recognize Colorado organizations with gold, silver and bronze designations for voluntarily going beyond compliance with state and federal regulations and for their commitment to continual environmental improvement.
- Colorado's first Climate Action Plan calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. Progress has been made through:
 - A demonstration project in Baca County for agricultural offsets through which farmers sold carbon credits for retaining acres in carbon sequestering grasslands.
 - CDPHE engagement of the coal industry, utilities, and neighboring states in conversations about a carbon capture and sequestration pilot project.
 - Statewide reporting of greenhouse gas emissions to the Climate Registry commencing in 2010.
- The Water Quality Control Division is continuing the multi-year assistance program to help public water systems with uranium and/or radium in their drinking water. All systems have now received sampling and engineering support to help start identifying solutions to this very complex problem.
- The Air Quality Control Commission adopted rules in 2007 to dramatically reduce mercury emissions from new and modified coal-fired power plants and to require that these power plants monitor their mercury emissions.
- The state's Air Quality Control Division, in conjunction with the Regional Air Quality Council, developed the Denver Metro Area and North Front Range Ozone Action Plan for ozone reduction to comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The state was able to secure significant voluntary emission reductions and other contributions to reduce ozone levels on the Front Range resulting in emission reductions of approximately 140 tons per day.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Colorado Department of Public Safety plays a key role in Gov. Ritter's initiatives to protect communities, reduce crime and enhance the safety of people across Colorado. The Department oversees agencies such as the Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Division of Criminal Justice and the Division of Fire Safety. Key achievements:

- Managed 12 state agencies in providing safety and security for the Democratic National Convention.
- Opened a new Colorado Bureau of Investigation justice center in Grand Junction. The Offices for the Division of Fire Safety and the Colorado Information Analysis Center were moved to the Lakewood headquarters, saving rent, travel time and costs.
- The Colorado Information Analysis Center, managed by the State Patrol, investigated an Aurora man and his father who stand accused of planning new harm to New Yorkers.
- A cold case task force was established to examine unsolved homicides and help local agencies. In October, a suspect identified by CBI as the perpetrator of a 32-year old homicide in Clear Creek County confessed and pled guilty to the murder of 16-year-old Holly Marie Andrews.
- Traffic fatalities dropped by more than 15 percent statewide and by more than 8 percent on highways covered by the CSP, lower than at any time in the past 40 years.
- Colorado's violent crime rate dropped in 2009, and the number of violent crimes per 100,000 in population stood at 343.1, compared to the national rate of 454.5.
- The CSP administers the Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority and has seen the number of motor vehicles stolen cut in half, saving Colorado motor vehicle owners and insurance companies \$85 million in 2008 over 2005 losses.
- Added 64 mental health treatment beds in community corrections programs and diverted offenders from more costly incarceration.
- New CBI Director Ron Sloan reorganized management for the CBI's services. Col. James M. Wolfenbarger was appointed the seventh Chief of the Colorado State Patrol.
- The Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) distributed \$16 million in Recovery Act grants, including 58 grants for nearly \$4 million for juvenile justice, victims and violence against women services.
- DCJ's community corrections office supervised the opening of a new substance abuse treatment program for offenders from southern Colorado in Alamosa.
- The third class of local Terrorism Liaison Officers graduated to give local emergency responders the tools they need to recognize and evaluate signs of terrorism. More 300 officers have been trained to date.

- The School Safety Resource Center provided consulting to more than 30 school districts during its first year. The Safe2Tell hotline surpassed its 5,000th call. Safe2Tell reports resulted in over 35 arrests, more than 165 school disciplinary actions and hundreds of investigations to divert dangerous situations.
- The Division of Fire Safety completed the consolidation of school safety inspection staff from the Department of Labor and Employment, completing over 1,000 school safety inspections – double the number from a year ago.
- CBI processed nearly 385,000 fingerprint submissions of criminal and civil records purposes, about 21 percent greater in number than six years ago. CBI converted several hundred thousand paper records of sex offenders into secure digital files for quicker search capability. Through the first 11 months of 2009, CBI labs processed 74,000 crime-related specimens and completed laboratory work on 14,000 cases.
- In October 2009, CBI coordinated law enforcement agency sweeps of non-compliant sex offenders, making more than 100 arrests for the U.S. Marshals Service's Operation Shepherd.
- The State Patrol graduated 22 cadets from the Academy on June 12, 2009.
- Total CSP cash seizures from drug interventions from January to November reached \$420,612.
- CSP's project management of the 2008 DNC is one of three semi-finalists considered for the 2009 Global Project of the Year Award by the Project Management Institute. The CPS-managed Colorado Integrated Criminal Justice Information System project was awarded one of five national awards from the federal government. The Hundred Club of Pueblo recognized State Patrol Sergeant Luke Armstrong for excellence in service to the Pueblo community.
- CSP served as one of the host agencies for the International Association of Chiefs of Police convention of 15,000 in Denver in October 2009.
- The new Colorado Crime Information System will ensure officers receive timely, critical criminal information.
- During 2009, CBI's InstaCheck Program denied about 5,000 requests for firearms from persons legally prohibited from purchasing them and arrested 89 individuals on outstanding warrants when they attempted to purchase the firearm. About a third of all denials for firearms would have been cleared erroneously by the FBI but were stopped by CBI's InstaCheck staff.
- CBI won a federal grant to provide a full-time ID theft victim advocate. Among other responsibilities, the advocate will help victims reclaim their good names.

DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES

As the state's regulatory department, DORA's mission is consumer protection. DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and promoting a fair and competitive business environment. Department agencies include Banking, Civil Rights, Consumer Counsel, Financial Services, Insurance, Public Utilities, Real Estate, Registrations and Securities.

■ Regulatory Effectiveness

- Over the past three years, DORA's Division of Real Estate has led a national push to rebuild the real estate industry from the damage brought by years of a hand-offs approach to regulation. A new regulatory program has levied fines and prevented unscrupulous individuals from receiving mortgage licenses under Colorado's updated laws.
- A year-long Division of Civil Rights study on discriminatory predatory lending revealed that if you are African American or Hispanic, you are 2½ times more likely to be steered into a sub-prime or higher-rate loan. To halt this practice, the Division brought enforcement action against several businesses. The HUD grant that funded the study also funded a major community-based initiative to educate hundreds of minority consumers about the perils of discriminatory predatory lending.
- The Divisions of Real Estate and Securities opened separate investigations to protect the Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program to help preserve land.
- DORA's Division of Registrations maintained safe and professional conduct among regulated professionals, taking nearly 5,000 enforcement actions and collecting \$1.3 million in fines since 2007.
- The Division of Insurance protected consumers by assessing \$4 million in fines against insurance companies since 2007 for violations of Colorado law, including untimely payment of claims to consumers and inappropriate denial of benefits.
- The Division of Securities protected Colorado consumers by negotiating approximately \$21.3 million in settlements and securing criminal sentences in 17 cases since 2007.

■ Consumer Savings

- DORA saved consumers \$225 million in 2008 and \$294 million in 2009, including efforts by the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of Consumer Counsel to reduce Xcel Energy and Qwest rate increases.
- DORA saved \$1 million in legal fees in 2008 through the in-house Expedited Settlement Program for disciplinary actions against licensees rather than sending cases directly to the Office of the Attorney General. The program was nominated for a Governor's Efficiency in Management Award.

■ **Support to Businesses**

- DORA's Division of Insurance saved employers \$115 million by reducing premiums charged for workers compensation insurance to all Colorado employers. Since 2007, the Insurance Commissioner reduced workers' comp premiums by 30 percent.

■ **New Energy Economy**

- The Public Utilities Commission approved Xcel Energy's Resource Plan in 2009, which sets out reliability and economic goals in supplying customers' electric needs through 2015. This will result in the closing of two of the dirtiest coal plants in Colorado and developing 800 MW of wind power.
- The Public Utilities Commission and the Office of Consumer Counsel partnered with the Governor's Energy Office and Energy Outreach Colorado to host an annual New Energy Economy Conference in Denver, attracting 750 participants from around the state to discuss new ways to advance Colorado's nationally recognized New Energy Economy.

■ **Outreach & Education**

- As required by House Bill 08-1216, DORA established a Consumer Outreach Program funded by fines collected from regulatory violators. The program allows DORA to educate consumers about their rights and professionals about their responsibilities. Outreach efforts include public service announcements in English and Spanish, call-in HelpCenters, consumer protection fairs and civil rights forums.
- Since 2007, DORA has re-opened regional civil rights offices in Pueblo and Grand Junction to better serve those communities.
- DORA's Information Technology team and DORA's Division of Registrations implemented the Physicians Profile System that is accessible on DORA's website to assist consumers in researching up to 17,000 physician profiles, including information on their licenses, criminal history, and past malpractice suits in Colorado and other states.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

■ Division of Taxation

- Assessed more than \$339.5 million in delinquent taxes during FY 2009. Over the past three years, the Department has assessed more than \$850 million in delinquent taxes.
- Collected about \$188.5 million in delinquent taxes in FY 2009, and \$592 million over the past three years.
- Taxpayer Service Division in FY 2009 responded to 152,278 pieces of written correspondence, handled 85,225 walk-in customers, and answered 768,238 phone calls.

■ Central Department Operations

- Issued more than 84 percent of all income tax refunds within 14 days of receipt. In 2009, there were 1.6 million individual income tax refunds issued.
- Converted from microfilming documents to imaging, providing better quality images at the same cost with faster retrieval time by document users.

■ Information Technology Division

- With the Taxation Division, rolled out the second phase of the Colorado Integrated Tax Architecture in 2009, converting more than 5 million income tax records to the new system that replaces a nearly 50-year-old existing system.

■ Division of Motor Vehicles

Titles and Registrations

- Collected \$60.8 million between July and October 2009 for road and bridge safety improvements, as a result of implementing FASTER (SB09-108).
- Processed 151,845 transactions for online renewal of vehicle registrations resulting in collections of \$23 million and saving resources for county employees and providing convenience for Colorado's citizens.

Emissions Section

- Implemented a High-Emitter Program with the Department of Public Health and Environment to identify vehicles that fail emission tests by using "clean screen" technology at drive-by testing stations.
- Doubled the number of Rapid Screen vans, to 18, providing a more convenient alternative to the traditional fixed-site emission inspection stations.

Driver's License Section

- Won the 2009 National Security Excellence Award from the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License for significant improvements that benefit public safety.
- Opened three new offices and hired 53 new workers for offices throughout the state in 2008 to reduce wait times and travel distances for citizens.
- Began computer upgrade that will provide better service to driver's license applicants by allowing appointment scheduling and document checks before office visits and other conveniences.

Driver Control Section

- Worked with several municipal courts to improve the timeliness and efficiency of traffic offense conviction reporting, increasing the percentage of convictions reported electronically from 50 to 71 percent.
- Improved compliance reporting to the Motorist Insurance Identification Database.
- Helped craft a new law with the Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving that clarifies the administrative license revocation process for impaired driving and that encourages ignition interlock use by all first DUI offenders.

Motor Carrier Services

- Cleared more than 50 percent of trucks through the Ports of Entry using electronic bypass. The three-year averages for the division cleared 6.2 million vehicles, issued 28,700 penalty assessments, collected \$7.8 million and conducted 24,190 safety inspections.

■ **Enforcement Division**

Division of Gaming

- Implemented regulations to monitor and report expenses related to administration of Amendment 50, which added new games of craps and roulette, expanded gaming hours and increased the betting limit from \$5 to \$100.
- Worked with the Department of Human Services and Colorado Interactive to successfully implement the Gambling Payment Intercept Registry pursuant to HB07-1349 to ensure child-support payments from delinquents.

Division of Racing Events

- Collected more than \$1.5 million in taxes on \$90 million wagered in 2008. In 2007, collected more than \$2 million in taxes on the \$100 million wagered.

Auto Industry Division

- Processed more than 60,000 auto dealer and sales person licenses over the three-year period, collecting more than \$6.3 million in licensing fees.
- Investigated more than 8,400 consumer complaints over the three years and pursued cases that involved \$18.7 million in consumer losses.

Liquor and Tobacco Enforcement Division

- Made 548 arrests in FY08-09, mostly for sale to minor and minor in possession. The Division has made over 300 arrests this fiscal year.
- Completed over 2,500 compliance checks in the past three years. There are currently more than 15,000 liquor licenses in the state.

Hearings Division

- Reduced queue for driver's license revocation hearings from 5,700 in 1st quarter 2009 to 1,645 in 4th quarter 2009; time in queue reduced by approximately 8 months.

■ **Lottery Division**

- The Lottery transitioned its back office functions from the antiquated WANG platform to a new processing platform. This resolves an issue that has been identified in a number of internal reviews and outside audit reports.
- Teamed with the Denver Broncos to offer a \$5 Scratch ticket featuring the Broncos and team-related prizes, making it one the most successful \$5 games ever offered by the Lottery.
- Expanded the retailer base to more than 3,000 outlets selling Lottery tickets.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

After nearly two years of gathering statewide input, Gov. Ritter signed the Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER) legislation into law in March 2009. FASTER provides the first new dedicated and sustainable funding source for transportation in 20 years. State and federal gas tax revenues have been stagnant for years, while repair and reconstruction costs have continue to rise. As a result, the condition of Colorado's roads and bridges have been steadily deteriorating. FASTER is fixing Colorado's most deficient bridges and roads, making them safer and preserving and creating jobs. FASTER also:

- Creates the Colorado Bridge Enterprise with a dedicated funding stream, which will, on an accelerated time line, finance the repair and replacement of nearly 130 poor bridges statewide.
 - Establishes the High Performance Transportation Enterprise to explore options in public-private partnerships for a more innovative transportation future.
 - Forms a new Efficiency and Accountability Subcommittee to ensure CDOT transparency and responsibility.
 - Also provides needed funds for road safety projects at the city and county level.
- In partnership with the legislature, CDOT created a Division of Transit and Rail to promote multimodal systems. The Division has the authority to plan, build, finance and operate transit, passenger rail and advanced guideway systems across the state.
 - In cooperation with the FAA and local governments, CDOT installed the first ever Wide Area Multilateration surveillance systems for the Craig, Steamboat Springs, Hayden-Yampa Valley and Rifle airports. The system will enhance airport capacity, improve safety and help in search and rescue operations.
 - Identified a transportation solution for the I-70 west mountain corridor. In an unprecedented effort, CDOT re-engaged stakeholders to reach consensus on identifying a combination of mass transit and highway improvements as elements of a long-term solution for the congested mountain corridor. CDOT also implemented numerous programs to enhance safety and improve traffic flow along the I-70 west corridor in the short term:
 - Instituted Heavy Tow to promptly clear large trucks from the highway. Heavy wreckers now move commercial vehicles from traffic lanes to a safe location, greatly reducing travel delays along the corridor.
 - Began Chain Assistance, a program allowing truck drivers to purchase chains and chain-up assistance on I-70 to enhance traveler safety and ensure compliance with Colorado's chain law.
 - Approved AutoSock™, another Alternate Traction Control Device for large trucks that can be installed over the tire in much less time than traditional chains.

- Put Courtesy Patrol into operation, providing free roadside assistance for motorists on weekends in the summer and winter months from Floyd Hill to Silverthorne.
 - Tripled the parking capacity at the new Hogback Parking Facility at I-70 and Morrison Road.
 - Improved commercial truck parking and communications at four spots along I-70. These components will help direct commercial drivers to the nearest chain station.
 - Added an additional 137 truck parking spaces for chain installation and added lighting to stations, providing needed visibility when the chain law is in effect during low visibility periods.
 - Installed variable speed limit signs along the corridor, allowing the speed limit to be lowered when conditions warrant.
 - Implemented trip travel times on overhead electronic message signs for motorists to get current travel time information along the corridor.
- Completed the Rail Relocation for Colorado Communities Study that examined the economic feasibility of moving through-freight rail traffic from the Front Range to Colorado's Eastern Plains. The report analyzes issues associated with the possible implementation of a rail bypass project, which would allow for future passenger rail service along the Front Range.
 - Completed the 2035 Statewide Transportation Plan, which includes a vision for a 21st century multimodal transportation system in Colorado.
 - Expanded Colorado's Transportation Environmental Resource Council to improve communications, cooperation, collaboration and policy discussions on matters affecting transportation and the environment.
 - Constructed Colorado's first erosion control training facility to ensure state water quality is not harmed during and after construction.
 - Adopted an Air Quality Policy Directive to address mobile source air toxins and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Adopted a policy to better incorporate bicycle and pedestrian needs into the design and construction of new transportation projects.
 - Completed State Freight Roadmap Study to accommodate an estimated doubling of freight activity in the state in 20 years, predicted to strain the state's infrastructure.
 - Implemented several innovative projects to help mitigate the increasing safety issue of wildlife-vehicle collisions on our state highways including:
 - A first-in-the-nation Wildlife Detection System pilot project between Durango and Bayfield began. The system consists of an underground cable that detects changes in the earth's electromagnetic field due to wildlife. It transmits information that activates electronic warning signs for motorists.

- Installed wildlife fencing along four miles of State Highway 82 south of Glenwood Springs. Eight wildlife escape ramps have been constructed, as well as deer guards.
- Partnered in the US 36 Preferred Alternative Committee to develop a “combination” alternative. The recommendation was adopted and included a combination of managed lanes, auxiliary lanes, commuter bikeway, and bus rapid transit.
- New specifications and a focus on recycling resulted in a 70 percent increase in the use of recycled asphalt pavement in new mixes.
- Awarded \$69.2 million in state grants for 27 strategic transit projects.
- The Safe Routes to School program awarded \$4.5 million of federal funds for 53 projects. The program initiated a statewide crossing guard program that trained 57 trainers and increased Colorado’s participation in Walk to School Day, from 65 schools to 212, with approximately 23,000 children walking to school.
- The Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program awarded \$20 million in federal funds for 33 projects that decrease congestion and improve air quality through vanpooling, bike rentals, teleworking, and through the purchase of energy and pollution reducing equipment.
- The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program received nearly \$2 million in federal dollars for new projects to advance tourism initiatives highlighting Colorado’s 25 Scenic and Historic Byways. The Lariat Loop was designated as a National Byway in 2009, making Colorado the most designations of any state in the country, with a total of eleven.

■ **2007-2009 Appointments**

- Transportation Commission
 - Mike Cheroutes, Denver county - new appointment
 - Jeanne Erickson, Jefferson and Broomfield counties - new appointment
 - Gary Reiff, Arapahoe and Douglas counties - new appointment
 - Heather Barry, Adams, Boulder and Broomfield counties - new appointment
 - Bill Kaufman, Larimar, Morgan and Weld counties - reappointed
 - George Krawzoff, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties - new appointment
 - Doug Aden, Mesa county and Western Slope - reappointed
 - Steve Parker, La Plata and Southwestern counties – reappointed
 - Les Gruen, El Paso, Fremont, Park, and Teller counties – new appointment
 - Gilbert Ortiz Sr., Pueblo and Southeastern counties - new appointment
 - Kim Killin, Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma counties - reappointed
- High Performance Transportation Enterprise
 - Charlotte Robinson, Denver Metro area appointment
 - Dan Cleveland, Pikes Peak area appointment
 - Stan Matsunaka, North Front Range area appointment
 - Tim Gagen, I-70 Corridor appointment

■ Other 2009 Legislation

- **SB09-94, Division of Transit and Rail (Williams/Levy).** Creates a Transit and Rail Division within CDOT to lead the further development of transit and rail statewide.
- **HB09-1318, Overweight Vehicle Permits (Sonnenberg & McFadyen/Brophy).** Clarifies language for the FASTER bill regarding overweight vehicle permits.
- **HB09-1034, Allow Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs) Property Taxes (Liston/Gibbs).** RTA's can now consider increasing property taxes as a means of funding transportation improvement projects. Requires a public vote.
- **SB09-78, Devolve State Highways to Local Governments (Newell/Rice).** The state can work cooperatively with local governments to transfer a state highway when it is mutually determined that the facility no longer functions as such.
- **HB09-1027, Yield to Transit Bus Entering Traffic (Rice/Gibbs).** Vehicle drivers are required to yield to transit buses when they reenter the lane of traffic after picking up or dropping off passengers, allowing them to maintain schedules.
- **HB09-1236, Driver Stop Distance School Bus Signal (Primavera/Hodge).** Drivers are required to stop 20 feet behind a school bus that is dropping off or picking up children, enhancing the children's safety.
- **HB09-1234, Driver's License Suspension Hearing (Kerr, J & Solano/ Tochtrop).** The bill addresses the failure of persons who don't show for license suspension hearing. Currently, if a person fails to show for their hearing, their license remains valid for another 20 days despite their previous traffic offenses.
- **SB09-91, Motor Vehicle Dealer Franchise Agreements (Romer/Rice).** Makes several changes to the relationship between motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, or manufacturer representative and motor vehicle dealers.
- **HB09-1244, PUC Deregulate Trucking Motor Carriers (Casso/Kopp).** To reduce duplicative multi-agency state requirements, intrastate motor carriers are not required to register their insurance with the Public Utilities Commission.
- **HB09-1298, Economic Development for Trucking in Colorado (McFadyen/Mitchell).** Encompasses three economic stimulators for motor carriers in Colorado: green truck grant program to encourage conversion to low carbon emission technologies and a \$5,000 grant for qualified carriers that retire/scrap/donate a 1989 model truck or older; enterprise zone investment tax credits; and sales tax credits for intrastate vehicles from Colorado.