



CAPITOL CONNECTION

A brief weekly update from the Colorado Association of REALTORS® Government Affairs Division

Dear Member,

This Week in the Legislature

Energy Improvement District Legislation to be Pulled by Bill Sponsor

As introduced, [HB 1350](#) sought to create a new Colorado energy improvement district, a statewide special district. The district would have imposed special assessments on eligible real property in the district on a voluntary basis, and issued bonds from the assessments to provide loans to district members to cover the costs of completing new energy improvements.

Late yesterday afternoon, CAR sent a Call for Action to REALTORS® statewide asking that they urge their State Representatives to vote NO on HB 1350, which was expected to be heard on the House floor today. Modeled after a program in Boulder which was supported by REALTORS®, it was felt that we needed more time to deliberate its merits before taking the program statewide.

CAR learned this morning that primary bill sponsor Rep. Joe Miklosi intends to pull HB 1350. REALTORS® look forward to working with Rep. Miklosi and other stakeholders this summer regarding this legislation.

By 10:00am this morning, over 800 REALTORS® had responded to the CFA – thank you for making our voices heard!

CAR Opposes Effort to Supersede Local Land Use Decisions

[HB 1284](#) creates a process whereby CDOT, MPOs and their member local governments develop a corridor capacity strategic plan with the stated goal of preserving transportation capacity and efficiency in areas projected to become congested due to future development.

While REALTORS® certainly recognize the benefit that such planning provides to congested corridors, HB 1284 effectively gives CDOT control over local development, and is an expansion of state power to intervene itself in local land use decisions.

CAR has traditionally advocated for local control of land use planning because we believe local governments know best the needs of their communities. This legislation will create uncertainty, lengthen the planning process and drive up the costs of development.

Durango REALTOR® Appointed to the Colorado Real Estate Commission

Last week, we reported that Doug Ring, a Pueblo REALTOR® was appointed to the CREC. This week, following the unanticipated resignation of Commissioner Pres Montoya, the Governor appointed Gina Picolli, a REALTOR® from Durango to the 5 member board. Like Doug, Gina has been an active volunteer at CAR for a number of years and we congratulate both of them on their recent appointments.

Special Session?

While the legislature is getting closer to balancing the budget based on the March 20 forecast, another round of economic forecasts will be announced on June 20. In normal years, legislators would wait until the next session to address changes in the forecast through supplemental bills. However, if the forecast comes in drastically different than the March forecast, the issue will require more consideration than just a handful of supplementals.

The buzz around the capitol has been that a special session is likely unavoidable, and would be scheduled for some time after July 4, giving legislators time to take in the revised forecast and to think about possible changes. The irony of a special session to address budget cuts is that it costs the state approximately \$15,000 a day.

The budget usually contains a line item to finance a special session in case one is called by the governor; however, funds in that line item were eliminated in an earlier round of cuts, so money to finance the special session would need to be found as well.

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House Bills: **368**

Senate Bills: **296**

Total: **664**

For more information on legislation affecting REALTORS®, bill positions, political affairs, and other current events, please visit: [CAR Government Affairs Home Page.](#)

An online version of the 2009 Legislative Directory (including committee rosters) and more information on legislation in the House and Senate, visit: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>

The live broadcast of the House of Representatives is [now online](#) where braoadcasts will also be archived. Live proceedings can also been viewed on Comcast channel 165.

