



The Kochs' **ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH**

David and Charles Koch are turning states into their own political playgrounds, using their billions to influence policy to suit their business and personal needs, and Colorado is one of the most prolific examples. Together with their network of dark money groups, the Koch brothers are fighting to impose policies that fit their agenda while hurting middle-class Colorado families.

In 2014, the Kochs topped the list of the 50 wealthiest billionaires who own property in Aspen's Pitkin County. Charles and David have used their wealth to push their agenda through their vast network in Colorado, influencing both state and federal matters. The Kochs even made Aspen and Vail locations for their private donor retreats, where they discussed the "threat" of unions, climate regulations, and financial regulations. Their brother, Bill Koch, followed their lead of buying local influence, and created a non-profit solely to persuade Pitkin County to approve new guardrails near his Aspen mansion.

Koch Industries operates several businesses in Colorado, where they'll do whatever is necessary to better their bottom line even if it harms the state or its people. Several Koch entities in Colorado clashed with the EPA for failing to register facilities, violating reporting requirements and for not complying with emission rules. While they claim to advocate against increased state spending, Koch Financial Corp had "more than \$80 million in contracts" with Colorado since 1996, including purchase and lease agreements, and even road construction, which they subsequently botched.

Americans For Prosperity (AFP) is the most entrenched Koch group in Colorado politics. AFP supported numerous extreme policies, such as the state's divisive Taxpayer Bill of Rights, and killing the job-sustaining wind production tax credit. AFP-Colorado's state director pledged in 2014 that AFP would "engage in policy fights at all levels of government" each and every year. AFP meddled in everything from Colorado's U.S. Senate race down to school board election fights.

In 2013, AFP targeted two Democratic state senators in recall elections which were sparked by their votes on gun safety following a mass shooting. AFP spent "significant money" to go after then Senate President John Morse's "tax and spend policies," and then Senator Angela Giron's support for expanding the state's renewable energy mandates. After the recall election, Morse and Giron's extreme GOP replacements supported TABOR as well as the Kochs' self-enriching energy and labor agenda.

The LIBRE Initiative, the Kochs' so called Hispanic outreach group, set up shop in the state, engaging Hispanics in Colorado on issues including school choice and immigration reform; but, to mask their true agenda. LIBRE also ingratiated itself into Colorado Hispanic communities by offering services like tax preparation help, scholarships and wellness check-ups. These public facing efforts hide their true agenda that harms the Latino community including opposing deportation protections, fighting against the minimum wage, and wanting to take away health care benefits.

To make inroads into a similarly influential Colorado community, Concerned Veterans for America vowed to expand their Colorado efforts, where nearly 400,000 veterans call home. It was in Colorado that Concerned Veterans for America first proposed privatizing the VA.

Another Koch-backed group, The American Legislative Council (ALEC), worked to influence a host of Colorado's such as a fracking chemical disclosure bill and multiple federal lands transfer bills, all based on ALEC's model legislation. Colorado has 8.3 million acres of public lands, along with 27 million acres of mineral estate. If the Kochs and ALEC are successful in their bid to take back this public land, they would be able to buy it from the state and use it for their business while spoiling it for everyone else. In 2002, "at least half" of Colorado's state lawmakers were members of ALEC.

During the 2014 U.S. Senate race between Colorado's Democratic Senator Mark Udall and Republican Rep. Cory Gardner, the Koch network ran over 4,600 ads in the state. Eight Koch groups, including the LIBRE Initiative and Concerned Veterans for America, participated in "issue advocacy" during the election. Freedom Partners Action Fund spent \$2.5 million in support of the eventual winner, Gardner.

In 2014, Koch Industries and the Koch-funded American Future Fund contributed a combined \$800,000 to the Republican Attorneys General Association, which bought \$2.6 million worth of TV ads in support of Republican Colorado Attorney

General Candidate Cynthia Coffman. The Kochs' support for Coffman shows their hypocrisy on criminal justice reform—Coffman was against legalizing marijuana, a reform that two Koch-funded groups have pushed to improve criminal justice.

Speaking of justice, brother Bill Koch allegedly kidnapped someone in Colorado (make sure to read to the end of the report).

The Kochs treat Colorado as a personal, political, and business playground, but the games they play challenge the ability of Coloradans to govern their own state, put at risk the livelihoods of the state's residents, and jeopardize the natural beauty that defines Colorado.

Table of Contents

Wealthy Koch Brothers Have Turned The Centennial State Into Their Political Playground	1
David & Charles Koch Have Multimillion Dollar Homes In Aspen.....	6
Koch Brothers' Private Donor Retreats In Colorado	8
Koch Industries' Operations In Colorado	9
The Koch Agenda In Colorado: Giving To Academic Institutions To Help Assimilate Colorado's Youth	15
The Koch Agenda In Colorado: Americans For Prosperity	16
AFP Was Founded By The Koch Brothers And Has Received Millions From Koch-Allied Dark Money Groups	17
Leadership	17
AFP Announced It Was Expanding Its Grass-Roots Infrastructure In The Politically Important Centennial State.....	19
2013 Recall Election	20
AFP-Colorado Supported The State's Flawed Taxpayer Bill Of Rights	25
2011 Colorado Springs Mayoral Race	28
Education	29
Energy/Environment.....	36
Americans For Prosperity Said That Federal Land Should Be Sold.....	43
Labor.....	44
Export-Import Bank.....	45
Health Care	46
Other AFP-Colorado Lobbying.....	47
The Koch Agenda In Colorado: American Legislative Exchange Council	47
ALEC Is Connected To The Kochs	47
ALEC Has Influenced A "Host Of Colorado Laws"	48
Public Lands.....	49
Energy/Environment.....	51
Right To Work.....	54
Education	54
Taxpayer Bill Of Rights	54
Legal Consumer's Bill Of Rights	55
The Koch Agenda In Colorado: Citizens For A Sound Economy, Concerned Veterans For America, LIBRE Initiative,National Right To Work Committee, American Energy Alliance, State Policy Network	55
Citizens For A Sound Economy.....	55

Concerned Veterans For America	56
LIBRE Initiative.....	59
National Right To Work Committee	64
American Energy Alliance.....	65
State Policy Network.....	66
60 Plus Association.....	68
The Koch Agenda In Colorado: 2014 U.S. Senate: Incumbent Sen. Mark Udall v. Rep. Cory Gardner	70
Koch Network Involvement In Colorado During The 2014 Midterm Elections	70
Americans For Prosperity.....	70
Freedom Partners	75
Generation Opportunity	77
Concerned Veterans For America	79
LIBRE Initiative.....	80
i360.....	81
American Energy Alliance.....	82
60 Plus Association.....	82
The Koch Agenda: 2014 Colorado Attorney General Race.....	82
Bill Koch Allegedly Kidnapped A Former Business Associate In Colorado And Agreed To Pay An Undisclosed Settlement To Dismiss The Case	Error! Bookmark not defined.

WEALTHY KOCH BROTHERS HAVE TURNED THE CENTENNIAL STATE INTO THEIR POLITICAL PLAYGROUND

David & Charles Koch Have Multimillion Dollar Homes In Aspen

In 2014, Charles And David Koch Topped The List Of The 50 Wealthiest Billionaires Who Owned Property In Pitkin County, Colorado, Where Aspen Is Located. According to Aspen Journalism, “There are now more than 1,600 billionaires in the world, and at least fifty of them have stakes in the Aspen area — primarily through their ownership of real estate in Pitkin County. [...] Aspen’s wealthiest men and the world’s sixth richest, brothers Charles and David Koch, for example, are worth \$6 billion more than they were a year ago — and a mind-boggling \$17 billion more than in 2012. [...] Aspen Journalism produced the first ‘Aspen 50’ list in 2012 collaboration with the Aspen Business Journal.” [Aspen Journalism, [7/28/14](#)]

David Koch Owned Two Homes In Aspen Worth A Combined \$19.9 Million. According to the Pitkin County Assessor’s value detail information, one of David Koch’s Aspen homes was valued at \$13,392,000 during the 2015 tax year. Koch’s other home in Aspen was valued at \$6,498,900 during the 2015 tax year. Combined, the two homes are worth \$19,890,900. [PitkinAssessor.org, accessed [7/9/15](#); PitkinAssessor.org, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Charles Koch Owned A \$9.6 Million Home In Aspen. According to the Pitkin County Assessor’s value detail information on Charles Koch’s Aspen house, the property was valued at \$9,636,900 during the 2015 tax year. [PitkinAssessor.org, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

The Wealthy, Like The Kochs, Have Caused “More Than Half” Of Aspen’s 11,000 Workers To Be Priced Out Of The City And The Surrounding Area

Boston Globe: “More Than Half Of The City’s 11,000 Workers Are So Priced Out Of Aspen, And The Surrounding Area, That They Must Drive More Than An Hour To Work Here, According To City Officials.” According to The Boston Globe, “Mixed amidst this entourage were leaner cars on a more prosaic mission, carrying the maids, janitors, clerks, waiters, waitresses and other workers who make Aspen hum. More than half of the city’s 11,000 workers are so priced out of Aspen, and the surrounding area, that they must drive more than an hour to work here, according to city officials.” [Boston Globe, [3/29/15](#)]

Colorado Ranked Among The “Top 20 States In The Nation With The Highest Levels Of Income Inequality” In 2014. According to The Denver Post, “Colorado ranks among the top 20 states in the nation with the highest levels of income inequality, according to a new study by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy.” [Denver Post, [8/28/14](#)]

CHARLES AND DAVID’S BROTHER CREATED A NONPROFIT SOLELY TO DRIVE PITKIN COUNTY TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF GUARDRAILS NEAR HIS MANSION

In 2011, Bill Koch Pushed For The Installation Of 12,600 Feet Of Guardrails On Castle Creek Road Near His Mansion. According to Aspen Daily News Online, “The project has been winnowed from an originally proposed 12,600 feet of guardrails to 2,100 feet, said Tom Newland, a representative of Citizens for Castle Creek (CCC), which was formed by Bill Koch. Koch, who has a mansion in the valley near Ashcroft, first floated the idea to the county in 2011.” [AspenDailyNews.com, [4/24/13](#)]

Bill Koch “Established A Nonprofit Group Called Citizens Of Castle Creek To Promote The Guardrail Proposal.” According to The Aspen Times, “[Bill] Koch, an industrialist whose holdings include coal mines near Paonia, has established a nonprofit group called Citizens of Castle Creek to promote the guardrail proposal.” [Aspen Times, [6/6/12](#)]

A Castle Creek Valley Resident Alleged That Koch Had Gotten Into An Accident And That Was Why He Wanted To Install Guard Rails. According to The Aspen Times, “Bob Rafelson, who has lived in the Castle Creek Valley for 45 years, said guardrails might be beneficial in a few select places along the road, but he cautioned the county against accepting Koch's full proposal. ‘This is not necessarily urbanization, but it's a step toward it,’ Rafelson said. There traditionally has been a staunch effort by residents of the valley to maintain its rural character, he said. Now, a relatively new resident wants to make changes after getting in an accident, Rafelson said without naming Koch. He said it would be less expensive if the proponent of the guardrails got a chauffeur to drive him around safely.” [Aspen Times, [6/6/12](#)]

Pitkin County Public Works Director Said A Few Sections Of Guardrail Were Already On The Road Where The County Deemed Them Necessary For Safety And Guardrails Would Make Snow Removal “More Difficult”

Pitkin County Public Works Director Brian Pettet Said A Few Sections Of Guardrail Were Already On The Road Where The County Deemed Them Necessary For Safety. According to The Aspen Times, “There are few sections of guardrail on the road. They have been placed where the county deems them necessary for safety, [Pitkin County Public Works Director Brian] Pettet said. The proposal includes extending some existing lengths of guardrail and installing others. They vary in length from 85 feet to 1,000 feet or so, he said.” [Aspen Times, [1/6/12](#)]

Pettet Said Koch’s Suggested Guardrails Would Make Snow Removal “More Difficult” And Would “Change The Aesthetics Of The Castle Creek Valley Dramatically.” According to The Aspen Times, “The cost of guardrail installation aside, there are ongoing maintenance considerations, he said. They make snow removal more difficult and some snow will wind up stuck against the guardrail instead of being pushed out of the way, he said. There's also an aesthetic consideration. ‘It would change the aesthetics of the Castle Creek Valley dramatically,’ [Pitkin County Public Works Director Brian] Pettet said.” [Aspen Times, [1/6/12](#)]

Bill Koch And His Wife Were The “Only Members Of The Board Of Directors Of Citizens Of Castle Creek”

Koch And His Wife Were The “Only Members Of The Board Of Directors Of Citizens Of Castle Creek.” According to The Aspen Times, “Under questioning by the commissioners, [Citizens of Castle Creek land-use planning consultant Glenn] Horn and [Citizens of Castle Creek Engineering consultant Tom] Newland said Koch and his wife are the only members of the board of directors of Citizens of Castle Creek. ‘At least there's two (of them) to get the “s” in the “Citizens,”’ Hatfield quipped.” [Aspen Times, [6/6/12](#)]

Koch Hired An Engineering Consultant And A Land-Use Planning Consultant To Represent His Nonprofit. According to The Aspen Times, “[Bill] Koch, an industrialist whose holdings include coal mines near Paonia, has established a nonprofit group called Citizens of Castle Creek to promote the guardrail proposal. Engineering consultant Tom Newland and land-use planning consultant Glenn Horn represent Koch's nonprofit group. They explained to the county commissioners that a detailed study was done to determine where to propose guardrails.” [Aspen Times, [6/6/12](#)]

Bill Koch’s Nonprofit Agreed To Pay For The Installation Of The Guardrails, Which Had Been Winnowed From An Originally Proposed 12,600 Feet To 2,100 Feet

The Project Was Eventually “Winnowed From An Originally Proposed 12,600 Feet Of Guardrails To 2,100 Feet” And Was Expected To Cost About \$100,000. According to Aspen Daily News, “New guardrails could be installed this fall on dangerous sections of Castle Creek Road after the Pitkin County commissioners on Tuesday directed staff to work with the nonprofit of a part-time Aspen billionaire who is paying for the effort. The project has been winnowed from an originally proposed 12,600 feet of guardrails to 2,100 feet, said Tom Newland, a representative of Citizens for Castle Creek (CCC), which was formed by Bill Koch. [...] Multiple stretches of the protective rail will be installed from the Marolt Ranch housing complex near the roundabout to the intersection of Little Annie and Castle Creek roads, the commissioners were told. The project is expected to cost about \$100,000.” [Aspen Times, [6/6/12](#)]

Bill Koch’s Citizens of Castle Creek Paid For The Project And The County Expected The Nonprofit To Fund The Bidding Process. According to Aspen Daily News Online, “Because CCC [Citizens of Castle Creek] is paying for the project, the county will expect the nonprofit to also fund the bidding process, [Pitkin County Public Works Director Brian] Pettet said.” [AspenDailyNews.com, [4/24/13](#)]

Koch Brothers' Private Donor Retreats In Colorado

KOCH BROTHERS' PRIVATE GOP DONOR RETREAT IN VAIL, COLORADO

Charles And David Koch Held A Private Retreat In The Vail Area For Wealthy Republican Donors And “Leading” GOP Politicians In 2011. According to The Huffington Post, “Sunday began a 4-day semiannual private retreat in the Vail area for wealthy conservatives and leading Republican politicians. The event is organized by two of the most powerful conservative political donors, Charles and David Koch of the private energy company Koch Industries. While their brother William Koch, purchased a rare photo of Billy The Kid over the weekend, his two brothers organized this conference where the agenda, guest list and even the actual location are kept secret (described as being in the ‘Vail area.’)” [Huffington Post, [6/27/11](#)]

Opening Night Of Koch Brothers' Private Donor Retreat At The Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch “Drew An Estimated 300 Guests.” According to Mother Jones, “These unprecedented recordings provide a behind-the-scenes look at how the Koch brothers and their comrades talk when they gather. They include a pair of keynote speeches and remarks by brothers Charles and David Koch, who spell out their political aims and name some of the ‘great partners’ who have contributed millions of dollars to their causes. (The audio was provided by a source who approached the author after the event was over and was not seeking compensation.) Security was tight at the Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch on opening night of the weekend conference, which drew an estimated 300 guests.” [Mother Jones, [9/6/11](#)]

At The Koch Event, “Audio Technicians Set Up Speakers Around The Perimeter And Blasted Out Static To Deter Eavesdroppers” According to Mother Jones, “Audio technicians set up speakers around the perimeter and blasted out static to deter eavesdroppers. (Presumably the attendees were admonished, as they had been in Aspen, not to blog, tweet, or leak information about the event.) As guests tucked into a repast catered by Wolfgang Puck's Spago, Charles Koch took the stage.” [Mother Jones, [November/December 2011](#)]

Charles Koch Allegedly Compared President Obama To Saddam Hussein And Declared That The 2012 Election Was the “Mother Of All Wars” At The Retreat. According to Mother Jones, “As guests tucked into a repast catered by Wolfgang Puck's Spago, Charles Koch took the stage. He welcomed his comrades with a warning of the peril facing the nation. Alluding to the 2012 election, he invoked Saddam Hussein and declared, ‘This is the mother of all wars we've got over the next 18 months, for the life or death of this country.’ A spokesman from Koch Industries later denied that the Saddam comment referred to Obama.” [Mother Jones, [November/December 2011](#)]

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie Was The “Headliner” Of The Koch Brothers' Dinner. According to Mother Jones, “The crowd went wild when David Koch introduced [New Jersey Gov. Chris] Christie, the dinner's headliner, mentioning how they'd spoken a few months before the governor proclaimed New Jersey's unilateral withdrawal from a 10-state carbon-trading pact that would cost the Koch brothers' privately held oil, paper, and chemical conglomerate—a major polluter—loads of money.” [Mother Jones, [November/December 2011](#)]

Several GOP Governors Went To The 2011 Vail Seminar, Including Florida's Rick Scott, Virginia's Robert McDonnell And Texas's Rick Perry. According to Mother Jones, “Several GOP governors made it to the Vail seminar in June, among them Florida's Rick Scott, Virginia's Robert McDonnell, and White House hopeful Rick Perry of Texas.” [Mother Jones, [9/6/11](#)]

Charles Koch At Event: “I Pledge To All Of You...That We Are Absolutely Going To Do Our Utmost To Invest This Money Wisely And Get The Best Possible Payoff For You In The Future Of Our Country.” According to Mother Jones, “But all the speechifying was merely a prelude to the ‘ask.’ Before sending his guests off to relax at the Buffalo Bar the following evening, Charles Koch brought it all back around. ‘As I've said, the mother of all battles [is] coming up a year from November,’ he said. ‘And I pledge to all of you who've stepped forward and are partnering with us that we are absolutely going to do our utmost to invest this money wisely and get the best possible payoff for you in the future of our country.’” [Mother Jones, [November/December 2011](#)]

KOCH BROTHERS HELD A DONOR SEMINAR IN ASPEN, COLORADO

Koch Brothers Held A Donor Seminar In Aspen, Colorado In 2010. According to Mother Jones, “If the June 2010 Koch (pronounced ‘coke’) seminar in Aspen, Colo., was any measure, the fortunate few could expect a rousing weekend of workshops, lectures, and panels with titles like ‘Understanding the Persistent Threats We Face,’ ‘Winning the Fight Between Free Enterprise and Big Government,’ and ‘Is America on the Road to Serfdom?’” [Mother Jones, [November/December 2011](#)]

Kochs’ Aspen Seminar Was Held At The “Posh” St. Regis Hotel. According to The Aspen Times, “The Aspen seminar last summer, which was held at the posh St. Regis hotel, focused on topics such as what the Koch brothers view as persistent threats, which the seminar's agenda identified as the nationalization of health care, the rising power of unions, the push for major new climate and energy regulations, financial regulation and government spending.” [Aspen Times, [6/24/11](#)]

At Kochs’ Seminar, “Some Of The Wealthiest People In America Listened To A Presentation On ‘A Vision Of How We Can... Make The New Case For Liberty And Smaller Government That Appeals’” To Rich And Poor. According to The New York Times, “The Kochs also seek to cultivate Americans’ growing concern about the growth of government: at the most recent meeting, in Aspen, Colo., in June, some of the wealthiest people in America listened to a presentation on ‘a vision of how we can retain the moral high ground and make the new case for liberty and smaller government that appeals to all Americans, rich and poor.’” [New York Times, [10/20/10](#)]

Seminar Focused On “The Nationalization Of Health Care, The Rising Power Of Unions, The Push For Major New Climate And Energy Regulations, Financial Regulation And Government Spending.” According to The Aspen Times, “The Aspen seminar last summer, which was held at the posh St. Regis hotel, focused on topics such as what the Koch brothers view as persistent threats, which the seminar's agenda identified as the nationalization of health care, the rising power of unions, the push for major new climate and energy regulations, financial regulation and government spending.” [Aspen Times, [6/24/11](#)]

KOCH INDUSTRIES’ OPERATIONS IN COLORADO

Koch Exploration Company

Koch Exploration Company Was Headquartered In Denver, Colorado. According to Koch Exploration Company’s website, “Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, Koch Exploration Company, LLC (KEC) focuses on the acquisition, development and trading of operated and non-operated natural gas and oil assets in the U.S. Rocky Mountains, onshore Gulf Coast, and mid-continent regions.” [KochExploration.ca.us, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

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Koch Exploration Company – Englewood, Colorado

Koch Exploration Company Had A Location In Englewood, Colorado. According to the Yellow Pages, Koch Exploration Company had a location in Englewood, Colorado. [Yellow-Pages.me, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

- **Koch Exploration Company’s Englewood, CO Location Employed 11 People In 2015; Timeframe Of Filing Was Unclear.** According to Koch Exploration Company’s profile on Nexis, Koch Exploration Company’s Englewood, CO location employed 11 people in 2015. [Koch Exploration Company Profile via Nexis.com, 7/6/15]
- **Koch Exploration Company’s Englewood, CO Location Generated \$1.7 Million In Sales Revenue As Of July 2015; Timeframe Of Filing Was Unclear.** According to Koch Exploration Company’s profile on Nexis, Koch Exploration Company’s Englewood, CO location generated \$ 1,672,000 in sales revenue as of July 2015. [Koch Exploration Company Profile via Nexis.com, 7/6/15]

Koch Exploration Company – Meeker, Colorado

Koch Exploration Company Had A Location In Meeker, Colorado. According to Yellowbook, Koch Exploration Company had a location in Meeker, Colorado. [Yellowbook.com, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

- **Koch Exploration Company's Meeker, CO Location Employed Six To Ten People In 2015; Timeframe Of Filing Was Unclear.** According to Koch Exploration Company's profile on Nexis, Koch Exploration Company's Meeker, CO location employed 6 to 10 people in 2002. [Koch Exploration Company Profile via Nexis.com, 6/8/15]
- **Koch Exploration Company's Meeker, CO Location Generated \$3.8 Million In Sales Revenue As Of June 2015; Timeframe Of Filing Was Unclear.** According to Koch Exploration Company's profile on Nexis, Koch Exploration Company's Meeker, CO location generated \$ 3,808,000 in sales revenue as of June 2015. [Koch Exploration Company Profile via Nexis.com, 6/8/15]

Flint Hills

Flint Hills Resources Had A Location In Broomfield, Colorado That Participated In Domestic Crude Purchasing. According to the Flint Hills Resources website, the Flint Hills Resources' location in Broomfield, Colorado participated in domestic crude purchasing. [FHR.com, accessed [6/12/15](#)]

Koch Financial Corporation

KOCH FINANCIAL CORP "HAD MORE THAN \$80 MILLION IN CONTRACTS" WITH THE STATE OF COLORADO

Koch Financial Corp "Had More Than \$80 Million In Contracts With The State, Dating As Far Back As 1996." According to the Denver Post, "A Koch Industries subsidiary, Koch Financial Corp, has had more than \$80 million in contracts with the state, dating as far back as 1996, when [Roy] Romer was governor. The contract was renewed in 1999, while Owens was governor." [Denver Post, 3/11/02]

KOCH FINANCIAL CORP HAD PURCHASE AGREEMENTS WITH DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WORTH A TOTAL OF \$25 MILLION

Koch Financial Corp Had Two Purchase Agreements With Denver International Airport's Municipal Airport System Worth A Total Of \$25 Million In 2006. According to the Denver International Airport's City and County of Denver Municipal Airport System Annual Financial Report for December 31, 2011 and 2010, "The Airport system entered into three Master Installment Purchase Agreements on October 26, 2006, and one on August 1, 2006. These include two agreements with Koch Financial Corporation for \$23.0 million and \$2.0 million, for a total of \$25.0 million, and two agreements with GE Capital Public Finance for \$9.0 million and \$20.0 million for a total of \$29.0 million." [Municipal Airport System Annual Financial Report, [6/8/12](#)]

- **The Agreement Was To Finance Capital Equipment Purchases.** According to the Denver International Airport's City and County of Denver Municipal Airport System Annual Financial Report for December 31, 2011 and 2010, "The Airport system entered into three Master Installment Purchase Agreements on October 26, 2006, and one on August 1, 2006. These include two agreements with Koch Financial Corporation for \$23.0 million and \$2.0 million, for a total of \$25.0 million, and two agreements with GE Capital Public Finance for \$9.0 million and \$20.0 million for a total of \$29.0 million. These transactions will finance capital equipment purchases at rates and terms of 4.3%, 4.22%, 4.16%, and 4.67% based on a 30/360 calculation for 2007." [Municipal Airport System Annual Financial Report, [6/8/12](#)]

KOCH FINANCIAL CORP HAD SEVERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

In 2008, Koch Financial Corporation Entered Into A Five-Year Standard Master Lease Agreement With The City Of Fort Collins, Colorado For Financing Equipment Worth A Total Of \$377, 570. According to a contract between Koch Financial Corporation and the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, “Standard Master Lease Agreement entered into as of June 2, 2008, (‘Agreement’), between Koch Financial Corporation (‘Lessor’) and the City of Fort Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’). All terms used and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.” Total 5-year financing was \$377,570. [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [7/11/08](#)]

- **Koch Financed Radio Equipment Worth A Total Of \$25,305 For The City’s Police Department.** According to a contract between Koch Financial Corporation and the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, “The following items of Equipment are hereby included under this Schedule to the Agreement :” Police Department received seven XLT 500 Mobile Radios that cost \$25,305 total. [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [7/11/08](#)]
- **Koch Financed Equipment Worth A Total Of \$130,238 For The City’s Traffic Department.** According to a contract between Koch Financial Corporation and the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, “The following items of Equipment are hereby included under this Schedule to the Agreement :” Traffic Department received One Ford F550 cab/chassis that cost \$26,453, one Altec AT37-G aerial lift that cost \$53,293 and one Flannegan Western lift that cost \$50,492. [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [7/11/08](#)]
- **Koch Financed Equipment Worth A Total Of \$179,317 For Three Of The City’s Golf Courses.** According to a contract between Koch Financial Corporation and the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, “The following items of Equipment are hereby included under this Schedule to the Agreement” : SouthRidge Golf received 15 South Ridge Golf cards that cost \$37,505 total and 2 JD 84” slope mowers that cost \$49,176 total. City Park Nine Golf received two Toro Greens mowers that cost \$19,412 total, one Toro ProCore 648 worth \$23,542. Collindale Golf received one Toro ProCore 864 that cost \$25,318 and one Toro TriPlex greens mower worth \$24,364. [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [7/11/08](#)]
- **Koch Sold The Assignment To Banc Of America Leasing & Capital In 2010.** According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of the Schedule of Equipment No. 1 dated July 11, 2008 to Standard Lease Agreement dated June 2, 2008 (‘Lease’) between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Koch Financial Corporation (‘Lessor’) [...] Koch Financial Corporation (‘assignor’) hereby gives notice that it has assigned and sold (the ‘Assignment’) to Banc of America Public Capital Corp (‘Assignee’) all of Assignor’s right, title, interest, obligations and duties in, to and under the Lease described above including without limitation, all of its rights in and to the rental payments and other amounts coming due pursuant to the Lease (the ‘Payments’) effective as of May 27, 2010 (‘Effective Date’).” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]

Koch Financial Corporation Billed The City Of Fort Collins, Colorado For \$13,736.86 For Paying Off A Loan For A Truck And For A Dump Bed In 2003. According to the purchase order between Koch Financial Corporation (vendor) and the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, Koch Financial Corporation billed Fort Collins \$13,736.86 total for “payoff loan for truck” and for “pay off loan for dump bed.” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [12/15/03](#)]

Koch Financial Corporation Had A Standard Master Lease Agreement With The City Of Fort Collins, Colorado In 2002. According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of the Schedule of Property No. 7 dated February 29, 2008 to Standard Master Lease Agreement dated November 1,2002 (‘lease’) between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Koch Financial Corporation (‘Lessor’).” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]

- **Koch Sold The Assignment Of Property No. 7 To Banc Of America Leasing & Capital In 2010.** According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of the Schedule of Property No. 7 dated February 29, 2008 to Standard Master Lease Agreement dated November 1,2002 (‘lease’) between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Koch Financial Corporation (‘Lessor’). [...] Koch Financial Corporation (‘assignor’) hereby gives notice that it has assigned and sold (the ‘Assignment’) to Banc of America Public Capital Corp (‘Assignee’) all of Assignor’s right, title, interest, obligations and duties in, to and under the Lease described above including without limitation, all of its rights in and to the rental payments and other amounts coming due pursuant to the Lease (the ‘Payments’) effective as of May 27, 2010 (‘Effective Date’).” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]

- **Koch Sold The Assignment Of Property No. 6 To Banc Of America Leasing & Capital In 2010.** According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of the Schedule of Property No. 6 dated May 25, 2007 to Standard Master Lease Agreement dated November 1, 2002 (‘Lease’) between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Koch Financial Corporation (‘Lessor’). [...] Koch Financial Corporation (‘assignor’) hereby gives notice that it has assigned and sold (the ‘Assignment’) to Banc of America Public Capital Corp (‘Assignee’) all of Assignor’s right, title, interest, obligations and duties in, to and under the Lease described above including without limitation, all of its rights in and to the rental payments and other amounts coming due pursuant to the Lease (the ‘Payments’) effective as of May 27, 2010 (‘Effective Date’).” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]
- **Koch Sold The Assignment Of Property No. 5 To Banc Of America Leasing & Capital In 2010.** According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of the Schedule of Equipment No. 5 dated March 31, 2006 to Standard Master Lease Agreement dated November 1, 2002 (‘Lease’) between the City of Ft. Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Koch Financial Corporation (‘Lessor’). [...] Koch Financial Corporation (‘assignor’) hereby gives notice that it has assigned and sold (the ‘Assignment’) to Banc of America Public Capital Corp (‘Assignee’) all of Assignor’s right, title, interest, obligations and duties in, to and under the Lease described above including without limitation, all of its rights in and to the rental payments and other amounts coming due pursuant to the Lease (the ‘Payments’) effective as of May 27, 2010 (‘Effective Date’).” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]
- **Koch Sold The Assignment Of Property No. 4 To Banc Of America Leasing & Capital In 2010.** According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of the Schedule of Equipment No. 4 dated June 17, 2005 to Standard Master Lease Agreement dated November 1, 2002 (‘Lease’) between the City of Ft. Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Koch Financial Corporation (‘Lessor’). [...] Koch Financial Corporation (‘assignor’) hereby gives notice that it has assigned and sold (the ‘Assignment’) to Banc of America Public Capital Corp (‘Assignee’) all of Assignor’s right, title, interest, obligations and duties in, to and under the Lease described above including without limitation, all of its rights in and to the rental payments and other amounts coming due pursuant to the Lease (the ‘Payments’) effective as of May 27, 2010 (‘Effective Date’).” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]

Koch Financial Corporation Had An Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement With The City Of Fort Collins, Colorado In 2001. According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of Schedule #22807 dated August 1, 2001 to Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement #22807 dated August 1, 2001 (‘Lease’) between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Motorola, Inc. (‘Lessor’), subsequently assigned to Motorola Credit Corporation, and further assigned to Koch Financial Corporation.” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]

- **Koch Sold The Assignment To Banc Of America Public Capital Corp In 2010.** According to the notice of assignment on the City of Fort Collins public records website, “Assignment of Schedule #22807 dated August 1, 2001 to Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement #22807 dated August 1, 2001 (‘Lease’) between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado (‘Lessee’) and Motorola, Inc. (‘Lessor’), subsequently assigned to Motorola Credit Corporation, and further assigned to Koch Financial Corporation. [...] Koch Financial Corporation (‘Assignor’) hereby gives notice that it has assigned and sold (the ‘Assignment’) to Banc of America Public Capital Corp (‘Assignee’) all of Assignor’s right, title, interest, obligations and duties in, to and under the Lease described above including without limitation, all of its rights in and to the rental payments and other amounts coming due pursuant to the Lease (the ‘Payments’) effective as of May 27, 2010 (‘Effective Date’).” [CityDocs.FCGov.com, [5/27/10](#)]

Koch Performance Roads

Koch Performance Roads Rehabilitated 30% Of Aspen’s City Streets And Provided A 15-Year Warranty Against Cracking Potholes, Rutting, And Ravelling. According to *Performance-Based Contracting for the Highway Construction Industry*, “Koch Performance Roads, Inc. is providing performancebased [sic] warranties on roads in O’Fallon, Missouri, and Aspen, Colorado. The Aspen project involved rehabilitating 30 percent of Aspen’s city streets. The work in O’Fallon consisted of constructing streets in Winhaven Research Park. Both projects used a design-build-warranty approach to finish in a timely manner. The pavement used is warranted against cracking potholes, rutting, and ravelling for 15 years.” [Performance-Based Contracting for the Highway Construction Industry via International.fhwa.dot.gov, [2003](#)]

Koch Performance Roads' 15-Year Warranty With Aspen Expired After "Just Seven And A Half Years." According to American City and County, "This year, Aspen, Colo.'s 15-year street maintenance warranty contract with Wichita, Kan.-based Koch Performance Roads expired after just seven and a half years." [AmericanCityandCountry.com, [8/1/06](#)]

- **The Contract Specified That The Warranty Would Last 15 Years Or Until The Heavy Truck Traffic Count Reached 4.6 Million.** According to American City and County, "The contract specified that the warranty would last 15 years or until the heavy truck traffic count reached 4.6 million." [AmericanCityandCountry.com, [8/1/06](#)]

Aspen Streets Superintendent: The Traffic Counting System Artificially Raised The Heavy Traffic Count On The Streets And Nullifying The Warranty Sooner Than City Officials Expected. According to American City and County, "The traffic counting system, which was meant to track only heavy trucks over 18 feet in length, actually registered some heavier extended and crew-cab style pickup trucks as Class 2 vehicles, artificially raising the heavy traffic count on the streets and nullifying the warranty sooner than city officials expected, [Aspen streets superintendent Jerry] Nye says." [AmericanCityandCountry.com, [8/1/06](#)]

Aspen Streets Superintendent: "Based On Traffic Counts, The Warranty Expired This Year, So We Lost Out On About Seven And A Half Years Because Of Traffic Accumulation." According to American City and County, "'Based on traffic counts, the warranty expired this year, so we lost out on about seven and a half years because of traffic accumulation,' says Jerry Nye, Aspen streets superintendent." [AmericanCityandCountry.com, [8/1/06](#)]

TWO YEARS AFTER KOCH WARRANTY EXPIRED....

2008: Aspen Times: "Many Roads In The City Of Aspen And Pitkin County Are Scarred From The Winter And In Need Of Repair." According to a photo caption in an article from The Aspen Times, "Paul Conrad The Aspen Times Snowmelt fills a pothole Wednesday afternoon Apr. 8, 2008, at the intersection of Main and Mill Streets. Many roads in the city of Aspen and Pitkin county are scarred from the winter and in need of repair." [Aspen Times, [4/10/08](#)]



ALL

Paul Conrad The Aspen Times Snowmelt fills a pothole Wednesday afternoon Apr. 8, 2008, at the intersection of Main and Mill Streets. Many roads in the city of Aspen and Pitkin county are scarred from the winter and in need of repair.

[Aspen Times, [4/10/08](#)]

Koch Industries And Other Koch Entities

2002: KOCH INDUSTRIES FAILED TO REGISTER A FACILITY WITH EPA THAT RESULTED IN \$17,765 FEDERAL PENALTY

In 2002, Koch Industries Failed To Register A Facility With EPA That Resulted In A \$17,765 Federal Penalty.

According to the Enforcement Case Report on the Environmental Protection Agency's website, in 2002, The EPA pursued an administrative case against Koch Industries that resulted in a \$17,765 federal penalty for "failure to register its facility." The Koch Industries facility was located in Bennett, Colorado. [Echo.EPA.gov, [9/24/02](#)]

1991: KOCH HYDROCARBON COMPANY VIOLATED EPA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS THAT RESULTED IN \$92,775 FEDERAL PENALTY

In 1991, Koch Hydrocarbon Company Violated EPA Reporting Requirements That Resulted In A \$92,775 Federal Penalty.

According to the Enforcement Case Report on the Environmental Protection Agency's website, in 1991, the EPA pursued an administrative case against Koch Hydrocarbon Company that resulted in a \$92,775 federal penalty for violating reporting requirements that was litigated with penalty and specified cost recovery of \$22,500. The Koch Industries facility was located in Commerce City, Colorado. [Echo.EPA.gov, [12/17/91](#)]

1985: KOCH INDUSTRIES FAILED TO COMPLY WITH EPA AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS THAT RESULTED IN \$14,000 FEDERAL PENALTY

In 1985, Koch Industries Failed To Comply With EPA Air Quality Regulations That Resulted In A \$14,000 Federal Penalty.

According to the Enforcement Case Report on the Environmental Protection Agency's website, "Nature of case this is a civil action against Koch Industries Inc. Pursuant to section 113(b) of the clean air act, 42 U.S.C. 7413(b), seeking penalties for failure to comply with EPA regulations relating to the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) of the air quality, 40 C.F.R. section 52.21.[...] Proposed remedy EPA seeks civil penalties in the amount of \$14,000 and judicially enforceable emission limits on the two new engines which would limit the increase in nox emissions to less than 40 tons per year. Koch appears to be agreeable toward settlement on these terms. Issues of national or precedential significance none. Use of case development process a draft copy of the litigation report on this case was transmitted to Ken Reich at the department of justice and to Judy Katz at EPA headquarters on May 16, 1985." [Echo.EPA.gov, [5/16/85](#)]

Koch Allegedly Constructed And Operated A Major Modification To Its Natural Gas Processing Plant In Adams County, Colorado, "Without First Applying For And Receiving A PSD Permit From EPA."

According to the Enforcement Case Report on the Environmental Protection Agency's website, "Nature of case this is a civil action against Koch Industries Inc. Pursuant to section 113(b) of the clean air act, 42 U.S.C. 7413(b), seeking penalties for failure to comply with EPA regulations relating to the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) of the air quality, 40 C.F.R. section 52.21. Cause of action this action alleges that Koch constructed and is operating a major [sic] modification to its natural gas processing plant in Adams County, Colorado, without first applying for and receiving a psd permit from EPA."

[Echo.EPA.gov, [5/16/85](#)]

Koch Industries "Installed Two Gas-Fired Compressor Engines At The Plant Having The Potential To Increase Emissions Of Nitrogen Oxides By Approximately 89 Tons Per Year."

According to the Enforcement Case Report on the Environmental Protection Agency's website, "Nature of case this is a civil action against Koch Industries Inc. Pursuant to section 113(b) of the clean air act, 42 U.S.C. 7413(b), seeking penalties for failure to comply with EPA regulations relating to the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) of the air quality, 40 C.F.R. section 52.21. Cause of action this action alleges that Koch constructed and is operating a major [sic] modification to its natural gas processing plant in Adams County, Colorado, without first applying for and receiving a psd permit from EPA. Specifically, Koch installed two gas-fired compressor engines at the plant having the potential to increase emissions of nitrogen oxides by approximately 89 tons per year." [Echo.EPA.gov, [5/16/85](#)]

- **EPA Civil Enforcement Report: "The De Minimis Amount For Nox Is 40 Tons Per Year."** According to the Enforcement Case Report on the Environmental Protection Agency's website, "Specifically, Koch installed two gas-

fired compressor engines at the plant having the potential to increase emissions of nitrogen oxides by approximately 89 tons per year. The de minimis amount for nox is 40 tons per year.” [Echo.EPA.gov, [5/16/85](#)]

EPA’s Civil Penalties Against Koch Industries Included “Judicially Enforceable Emission Limits On The Two New Engines Which Would Limit The Increase In Nox Emissions To Less Than 40 Tons Per Year.” According to the Enforcement Case Report on the Environmental Protection Agency’s website, “Nature of case this is a civil action against Koch Industries Inc. Pursuant to section 113(b) of the clean air act, 42 U.S.C. 7413(b), seeking penalties for failure to comply with EPA regulations relating to the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) of the air quality, 40 C.F.R. section 52.21.[...] Proposed remedy EPA seeks civil penalties in the amount of \$14,000 and judicially enforceable emission limits on the two new engines which would limit the increase in nox emissions to less than 40 tons per year.” [Echo.EPA.gov, [5/16/85](#)]

THE KOCH AGENDA IN COLORADO: GIVING TO ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS TO HELP ASSIMILATE COLORADO’S YOUTH

KOCH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FUNDED A FELLOWSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

The Koch Charitable Foundation Funded A Fellowship In The University Of Colorado-Boulder’s Department Of Economics In 2011-2012. According to the University of Colorado-Boulder department of economics website, “The Koch Charitable Foundation has funded a fellowship program for undergraduate students at the University of Colorado. The Koch Fellowship Program in Public Policy will give students majoring in International Affairs, Economics, or Political Science the opportunity to conduct research on public policy issues. Undergraduate students apply for these Koch Fellowships, and if accepted, receive a \$1000 stipend.” [Colorado.edu, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

- **A “Major Goal” Of The Koch Fellowship Program Was To “Prepare Students For Their Post-Graduation Careers,” Including Potential Opportunities In Think Tanks And Public Policy.** According to the University of Colorado-Boulder department of economics website, “A major goal of the Fellowship Program is to help prepare students for their post-graduation careers. Students will be assisted in applying for internship and fellowship opportunities, and for graduate study. The Koch Foundation provides a number of such opportunities for undergraduate students. The Koch Internship Program places students in internships with a number of think tanks in Washington D.C., and around the country. The Koch Associates Program offers full time career opportunities in public policy for recent graduates.” [Colorado.edu, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

CHARLES KOCH FOUNDATION SUPPORTED THE METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

The Charles Koch Foundation Lists The Metropolitan State College Of Denver And The University Of Colorado-Colorado Springs As Having “Programs Supported By The Charles Koch Foundation” As Of June 2015. According to the Koch Family Foundations website, the Metropolitan State College of Denver and the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs are included on a list of “Colleges and Universities with Programs Supported by the Charles Koch Foundation June 2015.” [KochFamilyFoundations.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

- **The Purpose Of The Charles Koch Foundation Is To “Understand The Nature Of Human Freedom And How That Freedom Leads To Prosperity.”** According to the Koch Family Foundations website, “Through the Charles Koch Foundation, Charles Koch has worked to fulfill his second passion – to understand how free societies advance social progress and well-being. Mr. Koch has 50 years of investment in ideas, think tanks and academic research that seeks to understand the nature of human freedom and how that freedom leads to prosperity. [...] The Charles Koch Foundation provides grants to more than 250 colleges and universities across the U.S. for research and education programs.” [KochFamilyFoundations.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

Charles Koch Foundation Has Made Many Donations Over The Years To The Metropolitan State College Of Denver, The University Of Colorado-Colorado Springs, And The University Of Colorado Foundation

In 2009, The Charles Koch Foundation Gave \$12,000 To The Metropolitan State College Of Denver And \$23,000 To The University Of Colorado Foundation For “Educational Programs.” According to the Charles Koch Foundation’s 990 tax form from 2009, the foundation gave \$12,000 to the Metropolitan State College of Denver and \$23,000 to the University of Colorado Foundation for “educational programs.” [Charles Koch Foundation 990, [2009](#)]

In 2010, The Charles Koch Foundation Gave \$15,340 To The Metropolitan State College Of Denver And \$20,000 To The University Of Colorado Foundation For “Educational Programs.” According to the Charles Koch Foundation’s 990 tax form from 2010, the foundation gave \$15,340 to the Metropolitan State College of Denver and \$20,000 to the University of Colorado Foundation for “educational programs.” [Charles Koch Foundation 990 FY10 via Guidestar, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

In 2011, The Charles Koch Foundation Gave \$15,500 To The Metropolitan State College Of Denver And \$12,000 To The University Of Colorado Foundation For “Educational Programs.” According to the Charles Koch Foundation’s 990 tax form from 2011, the foundation gave \$15,500 to the Metropolitan State College of Denver and \$12,000 to the University of Colorado Foundation for “educational programs.” [Charles Koch Foundation 990 FY11 via Guidestar, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

In 2012, The Charles Koch Foundation Gave \$18,000 To The Metropolitan State College Of Denver And \$3,000 To The University Of Colorado-Colorado Springs For “General Support.” According to the Charles Koch Foundation’s 990 tax form from 2012, the foundation gave \$18,000 to the Metropolitan State College of Denver and \$3,000 to the University of Colorado Foundation-Colorado Springs for “general support.” [Charles Koch Foundation 990 FY12 via Guidestar, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

In 2013, The Charles Koch Foundation Gave \$15,000 To The Metropolitan State College Of Denver And \$5,000 To The University Of Colorado-Colorado Springs For “Educational Programs.” According to the Charles Koch Foundation’s 990 tax form from 2013, the foundation gave \$15,000 to the Metropolitan State College of Denver and \$5,000 to the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs for “educational programs.” [Charles Koch Foundation 990 FY13 via Guidestar, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

DONORSTRUST FUNDED THE CENTER FOR WESTERN CIVILIZATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

The DonorsTrust VERITAS Fund For Higher Education Reform Provided Funding To “Centers Of Academic Excellence.” According to the DonorsTrust website, “The VERITAS Fund at DonorsTrust is a donor-advised fund that seeks out professors at top-tier universities who are committed to bringing intellectual pluralism to their institutions. Working with these professors, we fund ‘centers of academic excellence’ within universities that help introduce a new generation of students to broader perspectives than are available on most campuses. Typically, we provide top-notch professors with substantial seed capital, spread over three years. After these professors have demonstrated progress with their ‘centers,’ we assist them in identifying other funding sources - alumni, institutional, or foundations - to sustain their efforts.” [DonorsTrust.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

- **VERITAS Funded The Center For Western Civilization At Three University Of Colorado Campuses.** According to the DonorsTrust website, “University of Colorado at Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs: The Center for Western Civilization, directed by E. Christian Kopff. The goal of the Center is to eventually become a full academic department. VERITAS helped fund the fall 2007 orientation for Colorado’s 5,000 freshmen, themed ‘citizenship in a free society,’ focusing on the Founders’ vision of American citizenship, its origins in Western thought, and the challenges of maintaining free institutions.” [DonorsTrust.org, accessed [7/7/15](#)]

THE KOCH AGENDA IN COLORADO: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY

AFP Was Founded By The Koch Brothers And Has Received Millions From Koch-Allied Dark Money Groups

Americans For Prosperity's Founders Were "Billionaire David Koch, And His Brother, Charles Koch." According to The Washington Post, "Americans for Prosperity's increasing involvement in races this cycle has caught the attention of the New Yorker, which earlier this week published a lengthy investigative piece on the organization's co-founder, billionaire David Koch, and his brother, Charles Koch." [Washington Post, [8/26/10](#)]

David Koch Has Served As Chairman Of Americans For Prosperity Foundation, "And Both Brothers Have Family Philanthropies That Have Contributed To Its Operations." According to Forbes, "The Kochs were co-founders of the group that ultimately became the Americans for Prosperity Foundation. David Koch has served as chairman of the foundation and both brothers have family philanthropies that have contributed to its operations. Together, the foundation and AFP raised \$39.6 million in 2010, according to tax returns." [Forbes, [3/31/12](#)]

Koch-Backed "Freedom Partners" Contributed \$32.3 Million To Americans For Prosperity In 2012. According to Politico, "The group, Freedom Partners, and its president, Marc Short, serve as an outlet for the ideas and funds of the mysterious Koch brothers," and contributed \$32.3 million to Americans for Prosperity in 2012. [Politico, [9/11/13](#)]

Center To Protect Patient Rights Contributed Nearly \$15.8 Million To Americans For Prosperity From 2009-2012. According to Form 990s filed with the IRS, the Center to Protect Patient Rights has given \$15,791,079 to Americans for Prosperity since 2009. [Center to Protect Patient Rights IRS Form 990s, [2009-12](#)]

- **The Head Of The Center To Protect Patient Rights Had "Links To David And Charles Koch."** According to OpenSecrets.org, "The filings indicate that the Center to Protect Patient Rights, the head of which has links to David and Charles Koch, brought in \$25.3 million in contributions last year, and spent \$23.2 million." [OpenSecrets.org, [12/17/12](#)]

DonorsTrust Has Contributed Nearly \$12 Million To Americans For Prosperity Foundation. According to IRS tax forms, DonorsTrust has given \$11,724,911 to Americans for Prosperity Foundation since 2005. [IRS Form 990, 2005-2012]

- **DonorsTrust Was "Indirectly Supported By The American Billionaire Charles Koch."** According to the Independent, "The Donors Trust, along with its sister group Donors Capital Fund, based in Alexandria, Virginia, is funnelling [sic] millions of dollars into the effort to cast doubt on climate change without revealing the identities of its wealthy backers or that they have links to the fossil fuel industry. However, an audit trail reveals that Donors is being indirectly supported by the American billionaire Charles Koch who, with his brother David, jointly owns a majority stake in Koch Industries, a large oil, gas and chemicals conglomerate based in Kansas." [Independent, [1/25/13](#)]

Leadership

AFP-COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR MICHAEL FIELDS

AFP-Colorado Named Michael Fields As Its State Director In May 2015. According to The Denver Post's The Spot blog, "In five short years, Michael Fields has gone from being policy director and driver for congressional candidate Ryan Frazier to the state director of Americans for Prosperity Colorado, a conservative group that continues to play an increasing role in elections." [Denver Post, [5/19/15](#)]

Fields Is The Former AFP-Colorado State Deputy Director. According to The Denver Post's The Spot blog, "Americans for Prosperity Colorado bills itself as the state's 'foremost advocate for economic freedom.' It often weighs in on energy issues, which is no surprise given that its chief funders are the Koch Brothers, who made their fortune in oil. Fields formerly was the state deputy director." [Denver Post, [5/19/15](#)]

Fields Previously Taught At A Charter School, Served As A Policy Aide At The Colorado State House, Ran For The State House And Managed A Mayoral Campaign In Aurora. According to The Denver Post's The Spot blog, "Fields, 27, of Centennial, has a varied background. He taught at a charter school in Aurora, served as a policy aide at the Colorado state

House, ran for the state House, managed a mayoral campaign in Aurora and got a law degree from CU-Boulder.” [Denver Post, [5/19/15](#)]

Fields: “The Message Of Limited Government And Economic Freedom Resonates With Coloradans — And We Will Continue To Build A Grassroots Army Advocating For These Principles.” According to The Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “‘AFP Colorado has been extremely successful in holding elected officials accountable, and this success is a direct testament to the thousands of loyal activists that we have across the state,’ Fields said in a news release. ‘The message of limited government and economic freedom resonates with Coloradans — and we will continue to build a grassroots army advocating for these principles.’” [Denver Post, [5/19/15](#)]

FORMER AFP-COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR DUSTIN ZVONEK

Dustin Zvonek Was State Director Of AFP-Colorado Until May 2015. According to The Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “Dustin Zvonek, who had been the state director, is now AFP’s regional director.” [Denver Post, [5/19/15](#)]

- **Zvonek Was Promoted To AFP’s Regional Director.** According to The Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “Dustin Zvonek, who had been the state director, is now AFP’s regional director. Among the notches on his belt: He ran Republican Mike Coffman’s first congressional campaign and George Brauchler’s successful campaign for Arapahoe County district attorney.” [Denver Post, [5/19/15](#)]

In 2010, Zvonek Resigned From Gubernatorial Candidate Scott McInnis’s Campaign After McInnis Was Accused Of Plagiarism. According to Fox News, “Republican gubernatorial candidate Scott McInnis said Friday he will fully repay the \$300,000 he received for plagiarized essays about water rights, and he said it should bring the issue to a close. [...] But McInnis’ refusal to bow out is not stopping some of his staffers from leaving. KMGH-TV reported Friday that McInnis’ troubles prompted three staffers had resign, including policy Director Mac Zimmerman and political field Director Dustin Zvonek. [Fox News, [7/17/10](#)]

Zvonek Previously Worked For Colorado-Based Free-Market Think Tank Common Sense Policy Roundtable And Was The District And Communications Director For Rep. Mike Coffman. According to Americans for Prosperity-Colorado, “Dustin served as the Policy Advisor for the Common Sense Policy Roundtable (CSPR), a Colorado based free-enterprise think tank, that focused on protecting and promoting job creation and economic growth. Dustin also served as the Policy Director to former Colorado State Senate Minority Leader, Josh Penry. Prior to joining AFP Dustin was the District and Communications Director for U.S. Representative Mike Coffman.” [Americans For Prosperity - Colorado, [8/14/13](#)]

FORMER AFP-COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR JEFF CRANK

Jeff Crank Is The Former State Director Of AFP-Colorado. According to The Spot, a blog on the Denver Post website, “The latest game of Republican musical chairs involves Jeff Crank, Dustin Zvonek and Alan Philp — fixtures on Colorado’s political scene. Crank, who twice ran for Congress in Colorado Springs, last month left Americans For Prosperity, where he served as state director and temporarily handled duties as national chief operating officer.” [DenverPost.com, The Spot Blog, [8/13/13](#)]

Crank Served As Chief Operating Officer Of AFP After Serving As AFP-CO State Director. According to Jeff Crank’s website, “Previously, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of Americans for Prosperity, a grassroots free-market, free-enterprise organization. Prior to that, Jeff served as the Colorado State Director of AFP.” [JeffCrank.com, Accessed [4/15/14](#)]

Crank Hosted A Conservative Radio Show, Owned Rocky Mountain Consultants And Served As President of the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition While Serving As AFP CO State Director. According to the Americans for Prosperity Colorado’s website, “Jeff is currently the Colorado State Director of Americans for Prosperity, a grassroots free-market, free-enterprise organization. Jeff also hosts The Jeff Crank Show, a conservative talk radio show on Colorado’s 740 KVOR. He owns Rocky Mountain Consultants, a Colorado Springs based company providing business development consulting services to several business clients. Crank serves as the President of the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [1/25/10](#)]

Crank Served As President Of Aegis Strategic, A Political Consulting Firm With “Deep Ties” To The Koch Brothers. According to Mother Jones, “A new political consulting firm with deep ties to the Koch brothers has quietly set up

shop in Arlington, Virginia. Its mission: to prevent future Todd Akins and Richard Mourdock from tanking the Republican Party's electoral prospects. The firm, named Aegis Strategic, is run by a former top executive at Charles and David Koch's flagship advocacy group, Americans for Prosperity, and it was founded with the blessing of the brothers' political advisers, three Republican operatives tell Mother Jones. [...] Aegis' president is Jeff Crank, a two-time failed Republican congressional candidate who ran the Colorado chapter of Americans for Prosperity and served as the chief operating officer of the national organization.” [MotherJones.com, [1/17/14](#)]

- **Crank: “It's Not A Large Leap” To Assume Aegis Is Connected To The Kochs.** According to Mother Jones, “In an interview, Crank downplayed his company's Koch connections but did not dispute the accounts of those who say he mentioned Aegis' Koch affiliation. ‘I think there's some kind of an assumption that there is [a Koch connection],’ Crank said. ‘It's not a large leap for anybody to make.’” [MotherJones.com, [1/17/14](#)]
- **Aegis, “Located Just Blocks” From AFP’s National Headquarters And Freedom Partners’ Offices, “Comes Across As An Effort By The Koch Brothers' Allies To Bring In-House The Business Of Campaigns.”** According to Mother Jones, “Aegis Strategic comes across as an effort by the Koch brothers' allies to bring in-house the business of campaigns. On its website, Aegis bills itself as a one-stop shop for candidates who are ‘committed to freedom and economic opportunity,’ offering candidates such services as opposition research, fundraising, direct mail, TV/radio/cable advertisements, phone banking, data management, and social media. The company's office is located just blocks from Americans for Prosperity's national headquarters, the offices of various Koch-funded foundations, and Freedom Partners, the primary vehicle for anonymous money raised by the Koch donor network.” [MotherJones.com, [1/17/14](#)]

Crank Ran For Congress In 2008 And 2006. According to Jeff Crank’s website, “He was a candidate for U.S. Congress in the 5th Congressional District Republican Primary in 2008 and 2006.” [JeffCrank.com, Accessed [4/15/14](#)]

Crank Served As Administrative Director For U.S. Congressman Joel Hefley From 1991-1998. According to Jeff Crank’s website, “Jeff also served on the Washington staff of U.S. Congressman Joel Hefley from 1991-1998 where he focused on military issues and served as the Administrative Director.” [JeffCrank.com, Accessed [4/15/14](#)]

FOUNDER OF THE AFP-COLORADO CHAPTER JIM PFAFF

Jim Pfaff Founded AFP’s Colorado State Chapter In 2008. According to a web post from the Leadership Institute, “For many, Leadership Institute training marks the start of a lifelong career advancing conservative principles in politics. So it is for Jim Pfaff, chief of staff for Congressman Tim Huelskamp and LI graduate of the week. [...] He worked for Focus on the Family Action and started several organizations: Colorado Family Action; the Colorado Family Institute; and Americans for Prosperity's Colorado state chapter in 2008.” [LeadershipInstitute.org/News, [10/3/11](#)]

AFP Announced It Was Expanding Its Grass-Roots Infrastructure In The Politically Important Centennial State

AFP-COLORADO’S STATE DIRECTOR: “OUR PLAN IS TO CONTINUE TO BUILD OUR GRASS-ROOTS INFRASTRUCTURE EACH AND EVERY YEAR”

2014: AFP-Colorado’s State Director: “Our Plan Is To Continue To Build Our Grass-Roots Infrastructure Each And Every Year To Continue To Engage In Policy Fights At All Levels Of Government.” According to the Los Angeles Times, “Americans for Prosperity-Colorado, an arm of the national conservative nonprofit bankrolled by the billionaire Koch brothers, has had, since January, almost three dozen paid field staff in the state and hundreds of activists knocking on doors and making phone calls. In 2012, the group had five paid staffers, said state director Dustin Zvonek. ‘Our plan is to continue to build our grass-roots infrastructure each and every year to continue to engage in policy fights at all levels of government,’ Zvonek said. ‘A lot of attention is given to the TV ads we run or the direct mail, but our real strength is our grass-roots infrastructure — our ability to have conversations with Coloradans on the phone or at their doorsteps.’” [Los Angeles Times, [11/8/14](#)]

2014: AFP-Colorado's State Director: "Our Real Strength Is Our Grass-Roots Infrastructure — Our Ability To Have Conversations With Coloradans On The Phone Or At Their Doorsteps." According to the Los Angeles Times, "Americans for Prosperity-Colorado, an arm of the national conservative nonprofit bankrolled by the billionaire Koch brothers, has had, since January, almost three dozen paid field staff in the state and hundreds of activists knocking on doors and making phone calls. In 2012, the group had five paid staffers, said state director Dustin Zvonek. 'Our plan is to continue to build our grass-roots infrastructure each and every year to continue to engage in policy fights at all levels of government,' Zvonek said. 'A lot of attention is given to the TV ads we run or the direct mail, but our real strength is our grass-roots infrastructure — our ability to have conversations with Coloradans on the phone or at their doorsteps.'" [Los Angeles Times, [11/8/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado Went From Five Paid Staffers In 2012 To "Almost Three Dozen Paid Field Staff" In 2014. According to the Los Angeles Times, "Americans for Prosperity-Colorado, an arm of the national conservative nonprofit bankrolled by the billionaire Koch brothers, has had, since January, almost three dozen paid field staff in the state and hundreds of activists knocking on doors and making phone calls. In 2012, the group had five paid staffers, said state director Dustin Zvonek." [Los Angeles Times, [11/8/14](#)]

2015: "AFP Has Five Field Offices" In Colorado And "More Than 20 Full-Time Staff Members, Including A Deputy State Director And 7 Field Directors In Different Regions Of The State, Along With Several Part-Time Staffers" According to The Weekly Standard, "In swing states like Colorado, there's already evidence of investment. AFP has five field offices, three in the Denver area and one each in Colorado Springs and Fort Collins. [...] In addition to Fields, the state director, Colorado's chapter has more than 20 full-time staff members, including a deputy state director and 7 field directors in different regions of the state, along with several part-time staffers and an ever-growing pool of volunteers." [Weekly Standard, [8/3/15](#)]

AFP Colorado State Director Michael Fields: "I Think A Lot Of Donors Are Starting To See The Benefit Of This Off-Year Build-Up...I Feel Good About It." According to The Weekly Standard, "By contrast, AFP campaigns on everything from energy policy to taxes to health care. Their broad-based list of issues makes them less like an interest group and more like a major political party—but without the benefits a party enjoys, like universal familiarity and the ability to coordinate with candidates. In the eyes of AFP leadership, though, it means the freedom to push the issues they and their donors care about, unencumbered by negative perceptions of the Republican party [sic]. That allows the group to make a difference on the margins with independent voters, where swing-state politics are decided. 'I think a lot of the donors are starting to see the benefit' of this off-year build-up, says Michael Fields. 'I feel good about it.'" [The Weekly Standard, [8/3/15](#)]

2013 Recall Election

TWO DEMOCRATIC STATE SENATORS WERE TARGETED BY AFP AND OUSTED THROUGH RECALL ELECTIONS IN 2013 AFTER THEY PASSED A SERIES OF GUN CONTROL LAWS

AFP-Colorado "Targeted" Senate President John Morse And Sen. Angela Giron Who Were Up For "Separate Recall Fights Over Their Support For Stricter Gun Laws." According to The Huffington Post, "The first recall election in Colorado's history on Tuesday marked a stunning victory for the National Rifle Association and gun rights activists, with the ouster of two Democrats -- Senate President John Morse (Colorado Springs) and state Sen. Angela Giron (Pueblo). The two lawmakers were the target of separate recall fights over their support for stricter gun laws earlier this year. [...] The billionaire conservative Koch brothers also entered the fray, using their advocacy group Americans For Prosperity to target Morse and Giron. Due to the organization's nonprofit status, AFP also did not have to report its spending to the Federal Elections Commission." [Huffington Post, [9/11/15](#)]

- **National Rifle Association Was One Of The Organizers That Submitted Petitions That Sparked The Recall Process.** According to CNN's Polittick blog, "Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado on Thursday set the date for recall elections for two state senators, marking the first recall effort in the state's history. On September 10, voters in two districts will have the chance to re-elect or oust their incumbent Democratic state representatives who are being targeted for supporting tougher gun laws in Colorado. With the help of the powerful National Rifle Association, organizers submitted petitions last month with enough signatures to start the recall

process. Earlier Thursday, a Denver district court judge ruled that the petitions met all legal requirements, clearing the way for Hickenlooper to set the elections.” [CNN.com, [7/18/13](#)]

Sean Paige, AFP-CO Deputy Director Until 2014: “While The Second Amendment May Have Sparked The Recall, We Have A Litany Of Complaints Across The Board.” According to the New Republic, “Meanwhile, Americans for Prosperity and other pro-recall groups are invoking Obamacare, taxes and renewable energy mandates, among other issues. ‘While the Second Amendment may have sparked the recall, we have a litany of complaints across the board,’ said Sean Paige of Americans for Prosperity, which has made more than 5,000 phone calls and knocked on more than 3,500 doors, in addition to running radio ads in Pueblo (again, the spending is secret, given that the group’s efforts, as Paige puts it, have ‘nothing to do with the recall per se.’ OK.)” [New Republic, [8/28/13](#)]

AFP CO Spokesperson: “We’re Willing To Invest Some Significant Money” In The Recall Election. According to the Colorado Springs Independent, “Sean Paige with AFP’s Colorado chapter got back this morning and had plenty to say. Besides distributing door hangers, AFP has been working phone banks against Morse for two weeks. Declining to say how much AFP is spending on its anti-Morse campaign, Paige says, ‘We’re willing to invest some significant money in it.’” [Colorado Springs Independent, [7/26/13](#)]

AFP-COLORADO ANNOUNCED IT WOULD PURSUE AN “ISSUE ADVOCACY EFFORT” IN SENATE PRESIDENT JOHN MORSE’S DISTRICT AFTER HIS RECALL ELECTION WAS SCHEDULED

AFP-Colorado “Seized” The Recall Election “To Broaden The Debate About Morse’s Policies In The Statehouse.” According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “AFP-Co takes no position on the recall itself, nor on the candidates appearing on the ballot. But the group, which has nearly 70,000 members across the state, is seizing the moment to broaden the debate about Morse’s policies in the Statehouse, highlighting ways his voting record has hurt the constituents he claims to serve.” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/8/13](#)]

AFP-Colorado Announced It Would Pursue An Issue Advocacy Effort In State Senate District 11 “To Highlight Liberal Senate President John Morse’s Tax And Spend Policies.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Today, Sean Paige with Americans for Prosperity announced an issue advocacy effort in State Senate District 11. The effort will highlight liberal Senate President John Morse’s tax and spend policies and will include a robust canvassing effort and mailers.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [6/19/13](#)]

- **Sean Paige, AFP-CO Deputy Director Until 2014: “John Morse Has A Consistently Done Everything In His Power To Raise Taxes.”** According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Whether it was Morse’s vote on the Marriage Tax, the Increase Motor Vehicle Fee Emergency Services, the Elimination of the Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption, the Faster Bill, or the countless other votes he has on record, John Morse has a consistently done everything in his power to raise taxes,’ said Sean Paige, Deputy State Director of Americans for Prosperity. ‘For years Morse has put the interests of Denver, Washington and New York City above the needs of his constituents, and it’s time for him to start putting the residents of SD 11 first.’” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [6/19/13](#)]

By August 2013, AFP-Colorado Had Reported Volunteers Had Made “Nearly 5,000 Personal Phone Calls” And Canvassers Had Knocked On “Nearly 3,500 Doors” To Talk About Morse. According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “AFP-Co takes no position on the recall itself, nor on the candidates appearing on the ballot. But the group, which has nearly 70,000 members across the state, is seizing the moment to broaden the debate about Morse’s policies in the Statehouse, highlighting ways his voting record has hurt the constituents he claims to serve. [...] The group is quietly racking-up some impressive outreach statistics along the way, with volunteers making nearly 5,000 personal phone calls, accounting for nearly 200 hours of phone time, and canvassers knocking on nearly 3,500 doors – and the effort is only building momentum as time goes on.” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/8/13](#)]

AFP Distributed Fliers And Doorhangers “Likening” Senate President John Morse To “Bloomberg On Virtually Every Issue Except Guns”

AFP Distributed Fliers And Doorhangers “Likening” Senate President John Morse To “Bloomberg On Virtually Every Issue Except Guns.” According to The Huffington Post, “Indeed, the Koch brothers' involvement had little to do with guns, and AFP primarily focused its attacks against Morse on other issues that made him a vulnerable target in his conservative-leaning district. The group distributed fliers and doorhangers likening Morse to Bloomberg on virtually every issue except guns, instead concentrating on issues like taxes and health care.” [Huffington Post, [9/11/13](#)]

AFP Distributed A Door Hanger That Criticized Morse On “His Support For The Obama Health Care Law.”

According to a blog post from the Sunlight Foundation, “Finally, some groups worked in Colorado but are not detected either in Colorado state records or the broadcast records. Press reports revealed that Americans for Prosperity, the Koch-backed advocacy group that spent more than \$33 million at the federal level on the 2012 elections and is not required to disclose its donors, was working on the races. The group, for example, distributed this door hanger, which criticizes Morse not about his stance on guns but on his support for the Obama health care law.” [SunlightFoundation.org/blog, [12/10/13](#)]

AND LATER, AFP-COLORADO ANNOUNCED A GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN ON STATE SEN. ANGELA GIRON’S LEGISLATIVE RECORD LEADING UP TO HER RECALL ELECTION

AFP-Colorado Announced It Would Put Grassroots Pressure On State Sen. Angela Giron, Who Voted “In Lockstep With Morse On Most Issues,” Before Her Recall Election. According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “After working for weeks to put grassroots pressure against the extreme, out-of-step policies of Colorado Senate President John Morse, Americans for Prosperity-Colorado today announced that it would be broadening that legislative record review to include State Sen. Angela Giron of Pueblo, who has voted in lockstep with Morse on most issues. The constituents of both politicians are frustrated enough with their performance in the 2013 legislative session to put recall questions on the ballot. And while AFP-CO takes no position on the recalls themselves, this serves as a perfect opportunity to broaden the discussion to encourage Morse, Giron, and all Colorado legislators to serve their constituents better.” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/26/13](#)]

AFP-Colorado Criticized Giron For Supporting “An Expansion Of The State’s Renewable Energy Mandates.”

According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “The constituents of both politicians are frustrated enough with their performance in the 2013 legislative session to put recall questions on the ballot. And while AFP-CO takes no position on the recalls themselves, this serves as a perfect opportunity to broaden the discussion to encourage Morse, Giron, and all Colorado legislators to serve their constituents better. A perfect example of that, says AFP-CO, is Giron’s 2013 session support for SB-252, an expansion of the state’s renewable energy mandates that could mean significant utility bill hikes for her constituents in Pueblo West.” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/26/13](#)]

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015: Angela Giron “Showed That She Cares Far More About Pandering To Environmental Extremists Than About Helping Her Constituents.” According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “A perfect example of that, says AFP-CO, is Giron’s 2013 session support for SB-252, an expansion of the state’s renewable energy mandates that could mean significant utility bill hikes for her constituents in Pueblo West. ‘Angela Giron in this case showed that she cares far more about pandering to environmental extremists than about helping her constituents weather the tough economic times they’re facing,’ said AFP-CO State Director Dustin Zvonek.” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/26/13](#)]

- **Zvonek: “Giron Seems To Take Her Marching Orders From Morse... We Hope That These Efforts Will Help Persuade Both Senators To Recognize And Correct The Error Of Their Ways.”** According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “Just as John Morse seems to take his marching orders from out-of-state string-pullers in New York City and Washington, Giron seems to take her marching orders from Morse,’ said Zvonek. ‘We hope that these efforts will help persuade both senators to recognize and correct the error of their ways.’” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/26/13](#)]

MORSE AND GIRON LOST THEIR RECALL ELECTIONS; AFP-COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR HELD UP THE RESULTS AS A THREAT TO OTHER DEMOCRATS

Colorado Senate President John Morse And Senator Angela Giron Lost Their Recall Elections In September 2013.

According to The New York Times, “Two Colorado Democrats who provided crucial support for a package of state gun laws were voted out of office on Tuesday in special elections seen as a test of whether swing-state voters would accept gun restrictions after mass shootings at a Colorado movie theater and a Connecticut elementary school. The vote, which came five months after the United States Senate defeated several gun restrictions, handed another loss to gun-control supporters and gave moderate lawmakers across the country a warning about the political risks of voting for tougher gun laws. The immediate effect of the recalls — the first of their kind in Colorado — was to remove two state senators, Angela Giron of Pueblo and John Morse of Colorado Springs, and replace them with Republicans.” [New York Times, [9/11/13](#)]

AFP-Colorado State Director Held Up The Results As A Threat To Other Democrats

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015 On Recall Elections Results: “Coloradans ... Sent A Clear Message That Politicians Who Blatantly Ignore Their Constituents Will Be Held Accountable.” According to The Denver Post, “Coloradans ... sent a clear message that politicians who blatantly ignore their constituents will be held accountable,” said Dustin Zvonek, state director of Americans for Prosperity.” [Denver Post, [9/10/13](#)]

- **Zvonek On Morse And Giron Being Ousted From Recall Elections: “Perhaps This Will Serve As A Lesson That One-Party Rule In Denver Doesn't Give The Majority License To Take Things To Extremes.”** According to The Denver Post, “Coloradans ... sent a clear message that politicians who blatantly ignore their constituents will be held accountable,” said Dustin Zvonek, state director of Americans for Prosperity. ‘Perhaps this will serve as a lesson that one-party rule in Denver doesn't give the majority license to take things to extremes or run roughshod over the values and rights of Coloradans who just happen, for the moment, to be in the minority.’” [Denver Post, [9/10/13](#)]

MORSE AND GIRON’S EXTREME GOP REPLACEMENTS SUPPORTED TABOR AS WELL AS THE KOCHS’ ENERGY AND LABOR AGENDA

Democratic Sen. Angela Giron Was Replaced By Former Deputy Police Chief George Rivera. According to The Denver Post, “An epic national debate over gun rights in Colorado on Tuesday saw two Democratic state senators ousted for their support for stricter laws, a ‘ready, aim, fired’ message intended to stop other politicians for pushing for firearms restrictions. Senate President John Morse and Sen. Angela Giron will be replaced in office with Republican candidates who petitioned onto the recall ballot. Party insiders always said Giron's race was the harder one. Although her district is heavily Democratic, Pueblo is a blue-collar union town. Morse's district included Manitou Springs and a portion of Colorado Springs — and more liberals. [...] The turn of events made Morse and Giron the first Colorado state lawmakers to be recalled. Former Colorado Springs councilman Bernie Herpin will take Morse's seat in the Senate, while Pueblo will be represented by former Deputy Police Chief George Rivera.” [Denver Post, [9/10/13](#)]

- **Rivera Defended TABOR.** According to an interview with George Rivera on ColoradoPols.com, “I asked both Senators about their positions on TABOR. [...] Rivera: ‘Well, I’ll be honest with you. If we have the low taxes that you’re talking about, ...you don’t think that TABOR had something to do with that? Look at all of the fees we pay...the fee you pay when you get your license plates. What do you think that is? That’s a tax by another name, that’s all that is.’” [ColoradoPols.com, [3/23/14](#)]
- **Rivera Criticized Giron For Supporting A Bill “Requiring Electric Cooperatives To Increase Their Use Of Renewable Energy” During His 2013 Campaign.** According to The Pueblo Chieftain, “A new law requiring electric cooperatives to increase their use of renewable energy is another skirmish line between state Sen. Angela Giron, D-Pueblo, and her Republican challenger, George Rivera. Giron spoke at a press conference Thursday morning in support of President Barack Obama’s energy policy [...] Rivera faults Giron for supporting SB252. ‘It isn’t good legislation. It’s going to raise electric rates for customers in Pueblo West’ he said Thursday. Rivera said there was inadequate infrastructure in places such as the San Luis Valley to let the cooperatives produce more renewable power. ‘They’ve got the cart before the horse,’ he said.” [Pueblo Chieftain, [7/26/13](#)]
- **Rivera Said He Was A “Right To Work” Guy, And That He Was “Not A Believer In... The Whole Concept Of The Minimum Wage.”** According to ColoradoPols.com, “Senator [George] Rivera came out swinging as the hard-right conservative he is- he explained that he is a ‘right to work’ guy, that he is ‘not a believer in... the whole

concept of the minimum wage’, that he would like to privatize PERA (change it from a defined benefit to a ‘defined contribution’ model).” [ColoradoPols.com, [3/23/14](#)]

Democratic Sen. John Morse Was Replaced By Former Colorado Springs City Council Member Bernie Herpin.

According to The Gazette, “Former Colorado Springs City Council member Bernie Herpin won the GOP spot on the ballot in the attempt to oust state Sen. John Morse, D-Colorado Springs Tuesday night in a semi-official primary.” [The Gazette, [7/9/13](#)]

- **Herpin: “I Support TABOR.”** According to a Colorado Springs Independent interview with Bernie Herpin when he was running for Colorado Senate President John Morse’s seat in 2013, “Herpin: I support TABOR.” [Colorado Springs Independent, [7/31/13](#)]
- **Herpin Supported Fracking And “An All-Of-The-Above Strategy When It Comes To Energy Development.”** According to a Colorado Springs Independent interview with Bernie Herpin when he was running for Colorado Senate President John Morse’s seat in 2013, “Indy: How dangerous is fracking to the public health? Are more regulations needed? [...] Herpin: I support an all-of-the-above strategy when it comes to energy development. We need to stop our dependence on foreign energy sources and give ourselves the opportunity to create good-paying jobs right here in Colorado. Energy production has allowed North Dakota's economy to grow exponentially, and the same can happen in Colorado.” [Colorado Springs Independent, [7/31/13](#)]

Herpin: “I Will Focus On Empowering Job Creators And Eliminating Burdensome Regulations.” According to a Colorado Springs Independent interview with Bernie Herpin when he was running for Colorado Senate President John Morse’s seat in 2013, “Herpin: I will focus on empowering job creators and eliminating burdensome regulations that kill jobs. Unfortunately, this last legislative session was dominated by the majority doing the bidding of special interests or big donors in New York and Washington instead of focusing on getting our economy back on track.” [Colorado Springs Independent, [7/31/13](#)]

Extreme Statements

Rivera On Immigration: “Illegal Immigrants Are Just That — They Are Illegal Immigrants... They Are Not Aspiring Citizens.” According to The Denver Post, “At Rivera’s campaign announcement last year for the recall election, a video posted by The Pueblo Chieftain shows him revving a GOP base — outnumbered by Democrats by almost 20,000 voters in the district — on the issue of immigration. ‘Illegal immigrants are just that — they are illegal immigrants,’ Rivera said at the time. ‘They are not aspiring citizens.’” [Denver Post, [4/17/14](#)]

Rivera Unsuccessfully Tried To Repeal A Requirement That All Gun Sales Require Background Checks And Create A Tax Holiday For Firearms And Ammunition Sales. According to The Denver Post, “In his [Sen. George Rivera’s] short time at the Capitol, he has sponsored about a dozen measures, including a pair of Second Amendment proposals to repeal a requirement that all gun sales require background checks and a tax holiday for firearms and ammunition sales. Both were rejected in committees.” [Denver Post, [4/17/14](#)]

Herpin “Suggested It Was ‘Maybe A Good Thing’ That Accused Killer James Holmes Showed Up At The Aurora Theater With A 100-Round Magazine ‘Because It Jammed.’” According to the Los Angeles Times, “Both attempts failed but not before the Republican who replaced Morse, Bernie Herpin, rather indelicately suggested it was ‘maybe a good thing’ that accused killer James Holmes showed up at the Aurora theater with a 100-round magazine ‘because it jammed.’” [Los Angeles Times, [11/9/14](#)]

Rivera And Herpin Were Not Re-Elected In 2014

Rivera And Herpin Both Lost Their State Senate Seats In The 2014 General Election. According to Fox 31 Denver’s website, “Two of the seats that changed hands Tuesday night once belonged to pro-gun recall winners Bernie Herpin, R-Colorado Springs, and George Rivera, R-Pueblo, both of whom lost their races by relatively large margins in Districts 11 and 3, respectively. Herpin, a former Colorado Springs councilman, took the Senate District 11 seat that had been held by recalled Senate President John Morse, a Democrat, since 2006. Rivera was elected to take recalled Sen. Angela Giron’s place in Senate District 3.” [KDVR.com, [11/5/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado Supported The State's Flawed Taxpayer Bill Of Rights

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS (TABOR)

Colorado's Taxpayer Bill Of Rights Was Approved By Voters In 1992. According to the Associated Press, "Colorado residents will get tax refunds because the state's improving economy means government is collecting more revenue than it is allowed to keep under the 1992 voter-approved Taxpayer Bill of Rights." [Associated Press, [11/3/14](#)]

Under TABOR, State And Local Governments Cannot Raise Tax Rates Without Voter Approval. According to the Colorado Department of the Treasury on Colorado.gov, "Under TABOR, state and local governments cannot raise tax rates without voter approval and cannot spend revenues collected under existing tax rates if revenues grow faster than the rate of inflation and population growth, without voter approval." [Colorado.gov, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

TABOR Restricts State And Local Governments From Spending Revenues Collected Under Existing Tax Rates "If Revenues Grow Faster Than The Rate Of Inflation And Population Growth, Without Voter Approval." According to the Colorado Department of the Treasury on Colorado.gov, "Under TABOR, state and local governments cannot raise tax rates without voter approval and cannot spend revenues collected under existing tax rates if revenues grow faster than the rate of inflation and population growth, without voter approval." [Colorado.gov, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

AFP GAVE COLORADO THE BEST SCORE IN THE NATION ON ITS "FISCAL DISCIPLINE REPORT CARD" IN 2005 BECAUSE OF TABOR

AFP Foundation: "Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill Of Rights Amendment Scored The Nation's Best Grade With An A-" On AFP Foundation's Scorecard. According to a press release from Americans For Prosperity Foundation, "The free-market Americans for Prosperity Foundation today released its new 'Fiscal Discipline Report Card' that grades states on how well their tax-and-expenditure limits restrain the growth of state government spending and provide relief for their taxpayers. Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights amendment scored the nation's best grade with an A-." [AFP Foundation Press Release, 7/12/05]

AFP Foundation: "Very Few States Came Close To Colorado's Fiscal Discipline Success." According to a press release from Americans For Prosperity Foundation, "The free-market Americans for Prosperity Foundation today released its new 'Fiscal Discipline Report Card' that grades states on how well their tax-and-expenditure limits restrain the growth of state government spending and provide relief for their taxpayers. Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights amendment scored the nation's best grade with an A-. Very few states came close to Colorado's fiscal discipline success, though, with a national median grade a D- and 36 states earning D's or F's." [AFP Foundation Press Release, 7/12/05]

IN 2005, COLORADO VOTERS APPROVED REFERENDUM C TO ACCOUNT FOR TABOR'S FAILURES AND RESTRICTIVE NATURE

In 2005, Colorado Voters Approved Referendum C, "Which Suspended The Revenue Limit In TABOR From 2006 To 2010 And Modified It For Future Years." According to the Colorado Department of the Treasury on Colorado.gov, "In 2005, Colorado voters approved Referendum C, which suspended the revenue limit in TABOR from 2006 to 2010 and modified it for future years." [Colorado.gov, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

At The Time Referendum C Was Up For A Vote In 2005, Lawmakers Said They Were "Running Out Of Ways To Keep The Budget Balanced." According to The Gazette, "The recession that descended on the nation after the tech bubble burst and the Sept. 11 attacks hit Colorado hard. Drought and the worst wildfire season in state history hammered the economy, leaving it with shortfalls of more than \$1 billion three years in a row. Lawmakers closed driver's license offices, cut medical programs, slashed funding for colleges and let tuition skyrocket. They used accounting changes and drained cash accounts to make ends meet. TABOR, approved by voters in 1992, was never a factor in those tough years, but many lawmakers and economists knew the popular constitutional amendment would provide problems when the situation began to improve. With revenues flowing in again, TABOR's limits won't let government keep much of that new money to recover from the recession. Lawmakers say they are running out of ways to keep the budget balanced. If nothing is done, some elected

officials have talked about closing some universities, allowing highways to fall into disrepair and dramatically reducing health care for the poor.” [The Gazette, [4/19/05](#)]

Some Elected Officials Talked About “Closing Some Universities, Allowing Highways To Fall Into Disrepair And Dramatically Reducing Health Care For The Poor” If Nothing Was Done About TABOR. According to The Gazette, “With revenues flowing in again, TABOR’s limits won’t let government keep much of that new money to recover from the recession. Lawmakers say they are running out of ways to keep the budget balanced. If nothing is done, some elected officials have talked about closing some universities, allowing highways to fall into disrepair and dramatically reducing health care for the poor.” [The Gazette, [4/19/05](#)]

New York Times Editorial: Some In Colorado Have Likened TABOR “To A Fiscal Straitjacket Or A Statutory Version Of The Crazy Space Computer HAL 9000.” According to an editorial from The New York Times, “Under Tabor — which some in Colorado have likened to a fiscal straitjacket or a statutory version of the crazy space computer HAL 9000 — the state is therefore required to refund the marijuana money.” [Editorial – New York Times, [4/6/15](#)]

TWENTY-FOUR PLAINTIFFS SUED TO OVERTURN TABOR, ARGUING THAT IT “REMOVED FROM THE LEGISLATURE THE POWER TO ENACT TAX LEGISLATION.”

AFP “Launched A Petition Drive Aimed At Supporting Colorado Attorney General John Suther’s Vow To Fight The Suit” Challenging TABOR

In 2011, Twenty-Four State Lawmakers, Public Officials, Educators And Private Citizens Sued To Overturn TABOR, Arguing That It “Removed From The Legislature The Power To Enact Tax Legislation.” According to The Denver Business Journal, “The U.S. Supreme Court today ordered the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to revisit its ruling on a case challenging the Colorado Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights. The high [sic] court vacated the earlier decision by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Kerr v. Hickenlooper when it ruled that a group that included state lawmakers had standing to challenge TABOR in court. The 24 plaintiffs — state lawmakers, public officials, educators and private citizens — sued in 2011 to overturn TABOR, which Colorado voters approved in 1992. The law gives Coloradans the right to vote on state tax and spending increases. The plaintiffs argue that TABOR removed from the legislature the power to enact tax legislation.” [Denver Business Journal, [7/30/15](#)]

AFP “Launched A Petition Drive Aimed At Supporting Colorado Attorney General John Suther’s Vow To Fight The Suit” Challenging TABOR. According to the Americans for Prosperity website, “AFP not only launched a petition drive aimed at supporting Colorado Attorney General John Suther’s vow to fight the suit, but it hopes to get city and county governments from across the state to join with Suthers in TABORs defense, following the lead of El Paso County Attorney Bill Louis, who last week signaled an interest in helping to counter the lawsuit.” [AmericansforProsperity.org, [6/1/11](#)]

In 2015, The U.S. Supreme Court Vacated A Decision By The 10th Circuit Court Of Appeals, Which Stated That The Plaintiffs Had Standing To Challenge TABOR In Court, And Ordered The Lower Court To Revisit Its Ruling. According to The Denver Business Journal, “The U.S. Supreme Court today ordered the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to revisit its ruling on a case challenging the Colorado Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights. The high [sic] court vacated the earlier decision by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Kerr v. Hickenlooper when it ruled that a group that included state lawmakers had standing to challenge TABOR in court. The 24 plaintiffs — state lawmakers, public officials, educators and private citizens — sued in 2011 to overturn TABOR, which Colorado voters approved in 1992. The law gives Coloradans the right to vote on state tax and spending increases. The plaintiffs argue that TABOR removed from the legislature the power to enact tax legislation.” [Denver Business Journal, [7/30/15](#)]

DUE TO TABOR, COLORADO HAS TO REFUND \$58 MILLION IN MARIJUANA TAXES

New York Times Editorial: “Colorado’s Tax Revenues Have Recently Surged, Thanks In Part To... Some \$58 Million From The Marijuana Taxes,” But Due To TABOR, The State Is “Required To Refund The Marijuana Money.” According to an editorial from The New York Times, “As an April 1 report in The Times explained, Colorado’s tax revenues have recently surged, thanks in part to the booming construction, oil and gas industries, in addition to some \$58

million from the marijuana taxes. But not only revenues but overall state spending this year are expected to end up higher than the state estimated back when the marijuana tax was on the ballot. Under Tabor — which some in Colorado have likened to a fiscal straitjacket or a statutory version of the crazed space computer HAL 9000 — the state is therefore required to refund the marijuana money.” [Editorial – New York Times, [4/6/15](#)]

AFP FOUNDATION CALLED TABOR “SUCCESSFUL” IN 2011

AFP Foundation: “TABOR Is An Incredibly Successful And Commonsense Approach To Limiting Government Growth.” According to AFP Foundation’s report, Keeping Colorful Colorado Competitive, “TABOR is an incredibly successful and commonsense approach to limiting government growth. Because of TABOR’s provisions, more than \$3 billion has been refunded to Colorado taxpayers since its enactment in 1992.” [Keeping Colorful Colorado Competitive via AmericansForProsperity.org, [12/8/2011](#)]

IN 2015, AFP DEFENDED TABOR AND ASKED MEMBERS TO FIGHT AN “ASSAULT” ON IT

AFP-Colorado: “Denver Politicians Want To Dismantle The Taxpayer Bill Of Rights. They’d Spend Away Your Tax Refund And Rid Coloradans Of Protections They Overwhelmingly Voted For.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Lawmakers are at it again. Denver politicians want to dismantle the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. They’d spend away your tax refund and rid Coloradans of protections they overwhelmingly voted for.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [1/21/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado: “The Taxpayer Bill Of Rights Puts A Necessary Check On Government Overreach – And It Shouldn’t Be Gutted.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “The Taxpayer Bill of Rights puts a necessary check on government overreach – and it shouldn’t be gutted. The politicians insatiable appetite for higher taxes and more government spending needs fixing and it needs fixing now!” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [1/30/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado On TABOR: “Tell The Politicians To Protect Our Tax Refund!” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Lawmakers are at it again. Denver politicians want to dismantle the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. They’d spend away your tax refund and rid Coloradans of protections they overwhelmingly voted for. Tell the politicians to protect our tax refund!” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [1/21/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado: “With Your Help, AFP-Colorado Will Fight This Assault On The Taxpayer Bill Of Rights Every Step Of The Way.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “With your help, AFP-Colorado will fight this assault on the Taxpayer Bill of Rights every step of the way.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [1/30/15](#)]

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015: “Nothing Could Be Farther From The Truth” Than The “Claim That Our State Budget Is Too Restricted Under TABOR.” According to an opinion by AFP-CO Director Dustin Zvonek for the Denver Post, “Similarly misleading is the claim that our state budget is too restricted under TABOR. Nothing could be further from the truth. Colorado has plenty of money to go around; it's state lawmakers' priorities that need rebalancing.” [Dustin Zvonek – Denver Post, [2/6/15](#)]

Zvonek Wrote An Op-Ed Criticizing Gov. Hickenlooper’s Proposal To “Change The Way TABOR Refunds Are Issued, Eliminating The Possibility Of A Refund For 2018 And Possibly Even Many Years Into The Future.” According to an op-ed by Dustin Zvonek, the state director of AFP-Colorado until 2015, for The Colorado Statesman, “The check is in the mail” used to be the go-to excuse for those hoping to keep their debtors at bay. And, if Gov. Hickenlooper has his way, Colorado taxpayers will be hearing that line a lot more often when they look for their Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) refund checks. Just this week, Gov. Hickenlooper circulated a letter asking legislators to ‘overhaul’ the state’s spending priorities. Hickenlooper laid out his solution to solving what he’s calling ‘Colorado’s fiscal thicket’ pushing for a proposal which would change the way TABOR refunds are issued, eliminating the possibility of a refund for 2018 and possibly even many years into the future. He wants to take hospital taxes and move them into a specially created ‘enterprise fund,’ exempt from the revenue limits in TABOR, so he can spend them however he sees fit. But if Gov. Hickenlooper wants to raise taxes, then he needs to call it like it is.” [Dustin Zvonek – Colorado Statesman, [4/24/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado Had a Petition Against Repealing TABOR

AFP-Colorado Had A Petition Against Dismantling The Taxpayer Bill Of Rights. According to a petition on AFP's website, "This time, with a bill to dismantle the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. They'd spend away your tax refund and rid Coloradans of protections they overwhelmingly voted for. We Coloradans petition the State Legislature to: 1. Defend our right to vote on tax increases 2. Protect our tax refund 3. Put Colorado taxpayers first!" [AFP Petition via GetStarted.AmericansForProsperity.org, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado TABOR Petition: "We Coloradans Petition The State Legislature To: 1. Defend Our Right To Vote On Tax Increases 2. Protect Our Tax Refund 3. Put Colorado Taxpayers First!" According to a petition on AFP's website, "This time, with a bill to dismantle the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. They'd spend away your tax refund and rid Coloradans of protections they overwhelmingly voted for. We Coloradans petition the State Legislature to: 1. Defend our right to vote on tax increases 2. Protect our tax refund 3. Put Colorado taxpayers first!" [AFP Petition via GetStarted.AmericansForProsperity.org, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

2011 Colorado Springs Mayoral Race

AFP-Colorado Ran \$100,000 Worth Of Radio And TV Ads Against Colorado Springs Mayoral Candidate Richard Skorman, Which Portrayed Him As A "Tax-And-Spend Liberal." According to the City Politics blog on the Colorado Springs Gazette website, "Jeff Crank, a conservative radio host who is the director of the Colorado chapter of Americans for Prosperity, said his organization has spent about \$100,000 on TV and radio ads that portray mayoral candidate Richard Skorman as a tax-and-spend liberal." [Gazette.com, [4/30/11](#)]

- **Skorman Raised "Nearly \$255,000" For The Race.** According to The Gazette, "Skorman, who raised nearly \$255,000 and still has about \$40,000 left in the bank, said he expects to run TV ads but focus on talking to voters directly over the phone and in door-to-door campaigning in the weeks ahead. 'This is a battle that's going to be won by our ground game,' Skorman said during his victory speech." [Gazette.com, [3/31/11](#)]
- **Skorman's Competitor Raised \$195,000.** According to The Gazette, "Big money and deep community ties proved an effective combination as Richard Skorman and Steve Bach muscled their way Tuesday into a runoff to become Colorado Springs' first strong mayor. [...] Bach raised \$195,000 and has about \$14,000 cash on hand." [Gazette.com, [3/31/11](#)]

Jeff Crank, AFP-CO State Director Until 2013, Invited Skorman To Be A Guest On His Radio Show And Skorman "Flatly Rejected The Offer." According to the City Politics blog on the Colorado Springs Gazette website, "Crank invited Skorman to appear on his show two weeks in a row. But in a sharply worded email Friday, Skorman flatly rejected the offer, saying he wouldn't appear on his show this Saturday or any Saturday." [Gazette.com/CityPolitics, [4/30/11](#)]

Skorman Questioned The Ties Between Crank, AFP-CO, And The Radio Show's Producer Laura Carno, Who Was Also The Chief Of Staff Of Skorman's Opponent. According to the City Politics blog on the Colorado Springs Gazette website, "Skorman questioned the ties between Crank and his organization Americans for Prosperity and Laura Carno. Carno is a producer on the Jeff Crank Show — unpaid, according to Crank — and she also works as chief of staff for Steve Bach, Skorman's opponent in the mayor's race." [Gazette.com/CityPolitics, [4/30/11](#)]

- **A 2010 National Tax Union Blog Identified Laura Carno As A Representative Of Americans For Prosperity CO At A Press Conference.** According to a blog post on the National Tax Union website, "On Tuesday, I was in Colorado to speak at a press conference, along with Jon Caldara of the Independence Institute, Marty Nielson with the Colorado Union of Taxpayers, Joshua Culling of Americans for Tax Reform, State Senator Shawn Mitchell, Amy Oliver with Mothers Against Debt, and Laura Carno with Americans for Prosperity Colorado, recognizing the return of TABOR." [NTU.org, [7/16/10](#)]
- **Crank On Laura Carno: "She Is And Always Has Been A Volunteer Radio Producer For Me – Not An Employee."** According to an email from Jeff Crank to Richard Skorman on the Colorado Springs Gazette website's City Politics blog, "In addition, Laura is not an employee of mine on the radio show. She is and always has been a volunteer radio producer for me – not an employee. She also took a leave of absence when the runoff began and has not done any work for the show on-air or off." [Gazette.com/CityPolitics, [4/30/11](#)]

AFP'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

AFP-Colorado Called Douglas County “The Nation’s Petri Dish” For Education Reform. According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Granted, it’s still early to tell just how effective Douglas County’s reforms have been. However, the district’s voters will make a preliminary judgment tonight when they too enter the voting booth to elect a new school board. It is then that we will see whether the nation’s Petri dish will embrace the status quo of bloated school spending or continue to experiment with innovative school choice policies that shift institutional incentives towards providing children with the quality education they deserve.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/article/Colorado, [11/6/13](#)]

In 2013, AFP Foundation’s Colorado Chapter Was Expected To Spend “More Than \$350,000” On The Douglas County School Board Election. According to Politico, “It isn’t often that the Koch brothers’ political advocacy group gets involved in a local school board race. But this fall, Americans for Prosperity is spending big in the wealthy suburbs south of Denver to influence voters in the Douglas County School District, which has gone further than any district in the nation to reshape public education into a competitive, free-market enterprise. [...] The AFP Foundation’s Colorado chapter will spend more than \$350,000 on the school board campaign, State Director Dustin Zvonek said. ‘Douglas County has started to show that you can shake up the status quo’ even in a successful suburban school district, Zvonek said. ‘We don’t want them to go backward.’” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015: “Douglas County Has Started To Show That You Can Shake Up The Status Quo’ Even In A Successful Suburban School District... We Don’t Want Them To Go Backward.”

According to Politico, “‘Douglas County has started to show that you can shake up the status quo’ even in a successful suburban school district, [AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin] Zvonek said. ‘We don’t want them to go backward.’” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

- **The Board Had Already “Neutered The Teachers Union, Prodded Neighborhood Elementary Schools To Compete With One Another For Market Share, Directed Tax Money To Pay For Religious Education And Imposed A Novel Pay Scale That Values Teachers By Their Subjects.”** According to Politico, “The conservatives who control the board have neutered the teachers union, prodded neighborhood elementary schools to compete with one another for market share, directed tax money to pay for religious education and imposed a novel pay scale that values teachers by their subjects, so a young man teaching algebra to eighth graders can make \$20,000 a year more than a colleague teaching world history down the hall.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

With Four Of Seven Seats Up For Grabs In The 2013 Election, Reformers Found Themselves “Fending Off A Spirited Challenge From A Coalition Of Angry Parents And Well-Funded Teachers Unions.” According to Politico, “Conservatives across the U.S. see Douglas County as a model for transforming public schools everywhere. But with four of seven seats on the board up for grabs in Tuesday’s election, reformers find themselves fending off a spirited challenge from a coalition of angry parents and well-funded teachers unions. The race has been nasty and pricey, too; spending from all parties is likely to hit at least \$800,000.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

- **The Reform Slate Included Two Incumbents And Two Allies.** According to Politico, “Conservatives across the U.S. see Douglas County as a model for transforming public schools everywhere. But with four of seven seats on the board up for grabs in Tuesday’s election, reformers find themselves fending off a spirited challenge from a coalition of angry parents and well-funded teachers unions. The race has been nasty and pricey, too; spending from all parties is likely to hit at least \$800,000. [...] The reform slate — two incumbents and two allies running for open seats — has its own prominent backers.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

Politico Estimated That Spending From All Parties On The Douglas County Election Was “Likely To Hit At Least \$800,000.” According to Politico, “Conservatives across the U.S. see Douglas County as a model for transforming public schools everywhere. But with four of seven seats on the board up for grabs in Tuesday’s election, reformers find themselves fending off a spirited challenge from a coalition of angry parents and well-funded teachers unions. The race has been nasty and pricey, too; spending from all parties is likely to hit at least \$800,000.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

In The Fall Of 2013, AFP Released A Multifaceted Campaign Titled “It’s Working” Aimed At “Keeping Douglas County Public Schools Moving Forward With Ongoing Reforms.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Those fighting public school improvements in Douglas County got disappointing news today, with the announcement by Americans for Prosperity Foundation, the state’s largest free-market organization, that it would be investing even more time and resources in ‘It’s Working,’ a multi-faceted effort aimed at keeping Douglas County Public Schools moving forward with ongoing reforms” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [9/9/13](#)]

The Campaign Included Two TV Ads, One Of Which Thanked The “Forward-Thinking School Board.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Today AFPF-CO is releasing two new television ads. The opening phase of It’s Working featured a television ad in which long-time district resident Denise Denny described the decline of so many public schools and highlighted the reversal of those trends underway in Douglas County, thanks in large part to a courageous, forward-thinking school board.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [9/9/13](#)]

Douglas County School Board’s “Reformers,” Praised By AFP, Previously Enacted Extreme Changes

After The “Reformers” Took Control Of The School District In 2009, Their “First Step Was To Abolish Tenure.” According to Politico, “Yet since the reformers took control of the 65,000-student school district in 2009, the changes have come fast and furious. The board’s first step was to abolish tenure. Then it sidelined the local teachers’ union by refusing to negotiate a collective contract, instead working out deals one-on-one with each employee. ‘That really freed us up,’ said Doug Benevento, a board member running for reelection on the reform slate.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

The Board Refused To Negotiate A Collective Contract With The Local Teachers’ Union, And Instead Worked Out Deals “One-On-One With Each Employee.” According to Politico, “Yet since the reformers took control of the 65,000-student school district in 2009, the changes have come fast and furious. The board’s first step was to abolish tenure. Then it sidelined the local teachers’ union by refusing to negotiate a collective contract, instead working out deals one-on-one with each employee. ‘That really freed us up,’ said Doug Benevento, a board member running for reelection on the reform slate.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

Douglas County “Added More Charter Schools And Directed Public Funds To Subsidize Books And Classes For Home-Schooled Children.” According to Politico, “Douglas County has also added more charter schools and directed public funds to subsidize books and classes for home-schooled children.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

The Board “Launched The First Voucher Program In The U.S. To Subsidize Private And Parochial School Tuition For Wealthy Families In A Top-Ranked Public School District,” Which Later Faced Court Challenges. According to Politico, “The [Douglas County] board launched the first voucher program in the U.S. to subsidize private and parochial school tuition for wealthy families in a top-ranked public school district. (The schools, including some touting a Bible-based, creationist curriculum, received a down payment of funds in 2011, but the program is on hold pending court challenges.) ” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

- **Colorado Supreme Court Struck Down Douglas County’s Voucher Program In 2015, Citing It Was Unconstitutional Because It Allowed Public Money To Go To Religious Schools.** According to The New York Times, “Colorado’s highest court on Monday struck down a voucher program that allowed parents in a conservative suburban school district to use taxpayer dollars to send their children to private schools. The split decision to throw out the voucher program in Douglas County, Colorado’s third-largest school district, was a blow to conservative education advocates and those who want to redefine public education to funnel tax dollars directly to families who then choose the type of schooling they want for their children. The state’s Supreme Court ruled against the district’s voucher program, which was passed in 2011, saying it violated a plank of the State Constitution that explicitly prevents public money from going to schools ‘controlled by any church or sectarian denomination whatsoever.’” [New York Times, [6/29/15](#)]
- **AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields On State Supreme Court’s School Voucher Decision: “The Courts Have Decided To Put Special Interests Above The Needs Of Our Students.”** According to an Americans for Prosperity webpost, “Americans for Prosperity Colorado, the state’s foremost advocate for economic freedom, reacted with disappointment at the Colorado Supreme Court’s decision to overturn the Douglas County school choice program. Americans for Prosperity State Director Michael Fields released the following statement: ‘We

are certainly disappointed in today's decision. Unfortunately, the courts have decided to put special interests above the needs of our students. Their decision today means that families will no longer have the freedom to choose the best education for their needs. The Douglas County School Board's reforms were working — one-size-fits-all education does not. We'll be engaging with our communities and activists to continue pushing for reforms that create choice and opportunity for all Colorado students.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [6/29/15](#)]

The Board “Urged District Elementary Schools To Compete With One Another For Enrollment, Rather Than Simply Serving All Students In The Neighborhood.” According to Politico, “Pushing the free market farther still, the board has urged district elementary schools to compete with one another for enrollment, rather than simply serving all students in the neighborhood. Principals are encouraged to budget creatively so they can develop a marketable niche, a practice that has left some schools without art or music teachers as they build up science programs or bring in foreign-language classes.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

The Board Established A “Market-Pay System, In Which A First Grade Teacher Is Valued, And Paid, More Than A Second Grade Teacher And Teaching Physics Far Outweighs Teaching Art.” According to Politico, “Pushing the free market farther still, the board has urged district elementary schools to compete with one another for enrollment, rather than simply serving all students in the neighborhood. Principals are encouraged to budget creatively so they can develop a marketable niche, a practice that has left some schools without art or music teachers as they build up science programs or bring in foreign-language classes. Then there's the market-pay system, in which a first grade teacher is valued, and paid, more than a second grade teacher and teaching physics far outweighs teaching art.” [Politico.com, [11/2/13](#)]

The AFP-Supported “Reformer” Candidates Were Reelected To The Douglas County School Board In 2013

AFP-Supported “Reformer” Candidates Were Reelected To The Douglas County School Board In 2013. According to The Denver Post, “Douglas County voters Tuesday were supporting the current direction of the school district, with four candidates who want to continue the reforms begun in 2009 out in front. With 90 percent of the votes counted, incumbents Doug Benevento and Meghann Silverthorn were ahead, as were Jim Geddes and Judith Reynolds. The race basically came down to Republicans versus the teachers union, and the Republicans were winning. The race is being watched nationally and funded by national players as well.” [Denver Post, [11/5/13](#)]

AFP SUPPORTED THE CONTROVERSIAL JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Three Conservatives Were Elected To The Five-Member Jefferson County School Board In 2013. According to The Denver Post, “The Jefferson County school board's three open seats are going to candidates who banded together as conservatives, with the majority of votes tabulated. Julie Williams in District 1, John Newkirk in District 2 and Ken Witt in District 5 all held commanding leads on their opponents, Tonya Aultman-Bettridge, Jeff Lamontagne and Gordon ‘Spud’ Van de Water, respectively. The election of these three would give the county a conservative majority on the school board.” [Denver Post, [11/6/13](#)]

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015, Called The Election Of The Jefferson County Board School Board Members “An Exciting And Hopeful Moment For The County And School District” In An Op-Ed. According to an op-ed by Dustin Zvonek, AFP-Colorado State Director until 2015, for The Colorado Observer, “Jefferson County voters said ‘yes’ to change last fall when they elected a reform-minded group to the school board. It was an exciting and hopeful moment for the county and school district.” [Dustin Zvonek – Colorado Observer, [4/28/14](#)]

AP U.S. History Curriculum Changes

The New Board Offered A New AP U.S. History Curriculum Proposal That Sparked Protests From Students And Teachers, Including A “Sick Out” Held By 50 Teachers That “Forced The Closure Of Two District Schools.”

According to Vice Magazine, “The second is still being considered, but it's far more controversial: It would modify the AP US History curriculum to, in essence, teach a more right-wing-friendly vision of America's past. [...] Ironically, the proposal itself has inspired a great deal of civil disorder. While this evolved into a student-led protest last week, the momentum began building a week beforehand, when 50 district teachers held a ‘sickout’ that forced the closure of two district schools. Then, last Monday, 100 students from Evergreen High School staged a walkout, which inspired kids from other schools to follow suit

the next day. By midweek, around 700 students filled the sidewalks outside Jefferson County's Chatfield High School.” [Vice Magazine, [9/29/14](#)]

The School Board’s AP U.S. History Proposal Would Have De-Emphasized “Civil Disobedience And Disorder While Emphasizing Patriotism, Citizenship And ‘Respect For Authority.’” According to The Huffington Post, “The battle began last November, when three conservative candidates for county school board swept into office, establishing a majority on the five-person board. The newly-elected board members hired their own attorney and proceeded to clash with teachers and parents over issues such as pay, charter schools and kindergarten expansion. The move that garnered the most national attention, however, was a proposal for a new Advanced Placement U.S. history curriculum that would de-emphasize civil disobedience and disorder while emphasizing patriotism, citizenship and ‘respect for authority.’” [Huffington Post, [10/20/14](#)]

Jefferson County School Board Later Cancelled Its Review Of New AP U.S. History Course Framework Four Months After Students Initially Protested It. According to Talking Points Memo, “The Jefferson County, Colo. school board has cancelled its review of the controversial new AP U.S. History course framework, more than four months after students initially protested the board's attempts to revise the course. The board will instead defer any reviews to existing committees comprised of students and parents, CBS Denver reported on Thursday.” [TalkingPointsMemo.com, [2/19/15](#)]

Merit Pay System For Teachers

Zvonek: AFP Foundation Poll Found There Was Public Support For The Jefferson County School Board To Develop “A Merit Pay System Which Links Better Documented Performance To Higher Pay For Teachers.” According to an op-ed by Dustin Zvonek, AFP-Colorado State Director until 2015, for The Colorado Observer, “What new [Jefferson County school] board members should know is that a new poll commissioned by our sister organization, Americans for Prosperity Foundation, found that the public isn’t only paying close attention to what the new board is doing – it also revealed strong support for moving ahead with a number of common sense reforms, like promoting funding fairness for charter schools and developing a merit pay system which links better documented performance to higher pay for teachers.” [Dustin Zvonek – Colorado Observer, [4/28/15](#)]

Jefferson County School Board Voted “Three To Two To Adopt A Merit Pay-Based System” In 2014. According to Fox 31 Denver, “At the heart of the disagreement is a new system for determining how much Jeffco teachers get paid. Salaries had been frozen since 2010. Then, earlier this month, the school board voted three to two to adopt a merit pay-based system.” [Kdvr.com, [9/30/14](#)]

Charter School Funding

AFP Featured A Petition On Its Website Asking Members To “Let The Jefferson County School Board Know That We Need Members Who Will Fight For Us And Want To Promote Funding Fairness For Charter Schools.” According to a petition from AFP on AFP’s website, “Jefferson County voters said ‘yes’ to change last fall when they elected a reform-minded group to the school board. But lack of funding jeopardizes the chance to implement these changes. Reform is what voters demanded and policymakers should follow through with bold action. That's where you come in! Let the Jefferson County school board know that we need members who will fight for us and want to promote funding fairness for charter schools.” [AFP Petition via Action.AmericansForProsperity.org, accessed [6/16/15](#)]

AFP-COLORADO DEFENDED THREE JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AFTER THEY WERE TARGETED WITH A RECALL EFFORT IN 2015

AFP-Colorado Canvassed In Support Of Three Conservative Jefferson County School Board Members Who Were Targeted With A Recall Effort. According to Chalkbeat Colorado, ‘Battle lines are being drawn sharply this week in Jefferson County as organizers make their final push to collect enough signatures to force a recall election of three conservative school board members they believe are taking their schools down the wrong path. And that closing drive comes as supporters of those school board members — Ken Witt, John Newkirk, and Julie Williams — are preparing for their first public counterattack. On Wednesday, volunteers for Jeffco United for Action lined a 19-mile stretch of the busy Wadsworth Boulevard that runs north and south in suburban Denver to collect signatures for the recall petition from county residents on their way home from work. [...] And on Saturday, supporters of the board majority, organized by the Colorado arm of the

conservative grassroots organization Americans For Prosperity, will knock on doors to share what they believe are the board's successes in improving Jeffco Public Schools.' [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]

Americans For Prosperity-Colorado State Director Michael Fields: The Board's Policies Are "Worth Defending."

According to the Colorado Statesman, "Michael Fields, state director for Americans For Prosperity Colorado, a group that also opposes the recall, said the board's policies are 'worth defending.' 'I think there's a larger, broader community in Jeffco that supports the reform the board pushed,' he said." [Colorado Statesman, [7/22/15](#)]

Organizers Who Pushed For The Recall Effort Charged The Conservative Majority With Wasting Tax Dollars, Violating The State's Open Meeting Laws, And Disrespecting The Community And Teachers

Organizers Who Pushed For The Recall Effort "Believe The Conservative School Board Majority Has Wasted Taxpayer Dollars, Disrespected The Community And Teachers, And Has Violated The State's Open Meeting Laws." According to Chalkbeat Colorado, 'Organizers behind the recall effort believe the conservative school board majority has wasted taxpayer dollars, disrespected the community and teachers, and has violated the state's open meeting laws. Supporters of the board majority believe those claims are not only wrong, but the opposite of what the board has actually done: Balanced a billion-dollar budget without taking out a loan to build a new school, given teachers raises, and made the operations of the school district and board more transparent.' [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]

School Board Critics "Believe The Majority's Endgame Is To Terminate The District's Agreement With The Jefferson County Education Association." According to Chalkbeat Colorado, "Critics of the board majority believe the majority's endgame is to terminate the district's agreement with the Jefferson County Education Association and continue to advance a reform agenda that includes more policies influenced by free-market principles. The majority's supporters counter that the teachers union is making a power grab to 'regain control' it lost in 2013 when the conservative board majority was elected by wide margins." [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]

The Petition Language Cited "Alleged Board Misuse Of Taxpayer Funds And Violations Of Open Meeting Laws Among Grievances Driving The Recalls." According to the Colorado Statesman, "Petition language cites alleged board misuse of taxpayer funds and violations of open meeting laws among grievances driving the recalls. The recall effort is also motivated by events surrounding last year's proposed changes to the district's Advanced Placement History curriculum. The issue made national headlines after thousands of students walked out of classes to protest the changes." [Colorado Statesman, [7/22/15](#)]

Targeted Conservative Majority Engaged In "A Number Of Very Public Controversies," Including One Member Linking To An Anti-Gay Hate Group On Their Facebook Wall

There Were "A Number Of Very Public Controversies That Happened After The Board Considered A Proposal To Review An Advanced History Class." According to Chalkbeat Colorado, "Instead, the average Jeffco voter is likely to make a decision on the recall effort based on a number of very public controversies that happened after the board considered a proposal to review an advanced history class that spurred weeks worth of student protests, a board member linked to an anti-gay hate group on her Facebook wall, and school administrators refused to let Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper sign an education bill at a Jeffco school, which many considered a political snub." [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]

- **One Of The Targeted Jefferson County School Board Members "Linked To An Anti-Gay Hate Group On Her Facebook Wall."** According to Chalkbeat Colorado, "Instead, the average Jeffco voter is likely to make a decision on the recall effort based on a number of very public controversies that happened after the board considered a proposal to review an advanced history class that spurred weeks worth of student protests, a board member linked to an anti-gay hate group on her Facebook wall, and school administrators refused to let Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper sign an education bill at a Jeffco school, which many considered a political snub." [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]
- **School Administrators Denied Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper The Chance To Sign An Education Bill At A Jeffco School, "Which Many Considered A Political Snub."** According to Chalkbeat Colorado, "Instead, the average Jeffco voter is likely to make a decision on the recall effort based on a number of very public controversies that happened after the board considered a proposal to review an advanced history class that spurred weeks worth of student protests, a board member linked to an anti-gay hate group on her Facebook wall, and school administrators

refused to let Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper sign an education bill at a Jeffco school, which many considered a political snub.” [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]

School Board Majority Controversy Affected Jefferson County’s Teacher Turnover Rate

Jefferson County’s “Teacher Turnover Rate Had A 5 Point Increase Last Year.” According to Chalkbeat Colorado, “If anything, expert observers suggest that the back and forth will lead to high staff turnover, which critics of the school board majority already say is happening. Jeffco’s teacher turnover rate had a 5 point increase last year, according to state data.” [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]

“Expert Observers” Suggested That “The Back And Forth Will Lead To High Staff Turnover.” According to Chalkbeat Colorado, “If anything, expert observers suggest that the back and forth will lead to high staff turnover, which critics of the school board majority already say is happening. Jeffco’s teacher turnover rate had a 5 point increase last year, according to state data.” [Chalkbeat Colorado, [7/22/15](#)]

Recall Petition Effort Had Support From Jefferson County Community

The Recall Petition Effort Was Going “So Well” That Organizers Expected To Wrap Up The Signature Gathering Process By In July, Ahead Of The September Deadline. According to the Colorado Statesman, “The petition effort to oust three conservative Jefferson County school board members is going so well that organizers say they are expecting to wrap up the signature gathering process by this weekend. That comes on the heels of a robust campaign fundraising haul that left organizers energized about the recall effort, one that was recently launched by three Jeffco parents. ‘We are seeing that the community is really coming together behind these parents,’ said Lynea Hansen, a spokeswoman for Jeffco United for Action, the group behind the recall effort. [...] Organizers have until Sept. 8 to turn in 15,000 verified signatures for each of the three seats they are seeking to recall. Hansen said the group is ‘over half way’ there.” [Colorado Statesman, [7/22/15](#)]

AFP-COLORADO WAS AGAINST AN AMENDMENT THAT MANDATED INCREASED SPENDING ON K-12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

AFP-Colorado Advocated For Repealing Amendment 23, Which Mandated Increased Spending On K-12 Education Programs And Was Approved By Voters In 2000. According to a report from AFP-Colorado titled, Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose, “Repeal Amendment 23: Amendment 23, approved by voters in the fall of 2000, mandates increased annual spending on K-12 education programs, amounting to a blank check for one program at the expense of others. This entitlement reduces schools’ incentives for improvement because lawmakers have very little leverage over schools to force necessary reforms. Lawmakers from both parties have floated the 23 idea of tying repeal of Amendment 23 to easing TABOR’s spending restrictions for many years. Now that the Colorado Supreme Court has negated many of TABOR’s protections against tax hikes, repealing the Amendment 23 straightjacket is in order.” [Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose via AmericansForProsperity.org, [11/23/2009](#)]

AFP-Colorado On Amendment 23: “This Entitlement Reduces Schools’ Incentives For Improvement Because Lawmakers Have Very Little Leverage Over Schools To Force Necessary Reforms.” According to a report from AFP-Colorado titled, Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose, “Repeal Amendment 23: Amendment 23, approved by voters in the fall of 2000, mandates increased annual spending on K-12 education programs, amounting to a blank check for one program at the expense of others. This entitlement reduces schools’ incentives for improvement because lawmakers have very little leverage over schools to force necessary reforms.” [Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose via AmericansForProsperity.org, [11/23/2009](#)]

AFP-COLORADO SUPPORTED CHARTER SCHOOLS AND VOUCHER PROGRAMS

AFP-Colorado Asked Members To Send A Letter To Their Legislator To “Tell Them To Support School Choice In Colorado!” According to a web post from AFP, “An important bill is going before committee and we need your help to pass it! The Colorado Education committee will vote on bill that will give tax breaks for parents who choose to private or homeschooling options for their children. No two children learn the same way and parents should have the freedom to send their kids to the best school for their child’s needs. Send a letter to your legislator today and tell them to support school choice in Colorado!” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [2/4/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado Listed Closing The “Funding Gap Between Charter And District Schools In Order To Ensure That There Is True Choice In Education In Colorado” As One Of Its Top Priorities For The 2015 Legislative Session.

According to a list of AFP-Colorado’s priorities for the 2015 legislative session, “In the 2015 Colorado Legislative Session, Americans for Prosperity intends to promote the following goals: [...] Close the funding gap between charter and district schools in order to ensure that there is true choice in education in Colorado[.]” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [January 2015](#)]

AFP Lobbied For Tax Credits For Nonpublic Education

AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields Lobbied For Tax Credits For Nonpublic Education. According to a lobbyist disclosure report filed by AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields, Fields lobbied for SB 045, Tax Credits For Nonpublic Education. [Lobbyist Disclosure Report, SB 045, [February 2015](#)]

- **The Bill Would Give Families Who Move Their Children To Private School Or Home School A Tax Credit.** According to Colorado Public Radio’s website, “What the bill [SB 045] would have done: Parents who move their children from public to private school, or start homeschooling them, would be able to claim a tax credit. For families with children in private school the credit would be worth half of what the state spends per-pupil on public school students. Families that home school could claim a \$1,000 credit.” [CPR.org, [1/21/15](#)]

The Bill Was Opposed By The PTA. According to a PTA press release, “On Monday, January 26, 2015 the Colorado PTA Legislative Committee voted unanimously to oppose Senate Bill 15-045, Tax Credits for Nonpublic Education. ‘Not only have Colorado voters said no to vouchers, twice, but in 2002 Colorado PTA was the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the state, when the state legislature passed a voucher bill,’ said Colorado PTA President, Michelle Winzent. ‘The Colorado Supreme Court ultimately ruled that it is against the state and federal Constitution to use public dollars for private institutions.’” [PTA Press Release, [1/30/15](#)]

AFP-COLORADO WAS AGAINST COMMON CORE

AFP-Colorado Asked That Gov. Hickenlooper “Reject The Unwarranted And Unwelcome New Federal Intrusion Into Public Education Called Common Core.” According to a form letter by AFP-Colorado posted on its website to Gov. Hickenlooper, “As concerned parents and taxpayers, we ask that you reject the unwarranted and unwelcome new federal intrusion into public education called Common Core, by initiating or supporting actions that reverse Colorado’s ill-considered embrace of this program and any accompanying policies.” [AFP-CO Letter, accessed [6/16/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado Posted A Letter Against Common Core On Its Website And Asked People To Sign It. According to a form letter by AFP-Colorado posted on its website to Gov. Hickenlooper, “As concerned parents and taxpayers, we ask that you reject the unwarranted and unwelcome new federal intrusion into public education called Common Core, by initiating or supporting actions that reverse Colorado’s ill-considered embrace of this program and any accompanying policies.” [AFP-CO Letter, accessed [6/16/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado Lobbied To Delay Implementation Of Common Core

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015, Lobbied To Delay Implementation Of Common Core. According to a lobbyist disclosure report filed by Dustin Anthony Zvonek, the AFP-CO state director until 2015, Zvonek lobbied for SB 136, which would delay implementation of Common Core. [Lobbyist Disclosure Report, SB 136, [January 2014](#)]

AFP: Tell Lawmakers To Vote For Senate Bill – 136, “Which Will Buy Colorado Precious Time By Ordering A One-Year Delay In Implementation” Of Common Core. According to an Americans for Prosperity web post, “There’s a bill now before lawmakers, Senate Bill – 136, written by Colorado moms , which will buy Colorado precious time by ordering a one-year delay in implementation and independent review of costs and implications. This pause will give us time to look around, at how Common Core is unfolding elsewhere, and to have the informed debate that was missing when Colorado blindly jumped aboard this bandwagon back in 2010. So tell them now that our kids deserve a Common Core delay!” [AmericansforProsperity.org, [3/7/14](#)]

- **AFP: “Common Core Is To Education What Obamacare Is To Healthcare. In Both Cases You Have Arrogant But Incompetent Washingtonians Trying To ‘Fix’ What Isn’t Really Broken.”** According to an Americans for Prosperity web post, “Common Core is to education what Obamacare is to healthcare. In both cases you have arrogant but incompetent Washingtonians trying to “fix” what isn’t really broken, by imposing one-size-fits-all “solutions” that create more problems than they solve. But there’s still time to stop Common Core (or at least to force a thoughtful pause before the big plunge) if folks like you weigh-in on the issue now.” [AmericansforProsperity.org, [3/7/14](#)]

Energy/Environment

COLORADO IS THE NATION’S NO. 7 ENERGY STATE

AP: “Colorado Is The Nation’s No. 7 Energy State, And Its Coal, Oil And Gas Industries Produce Billions Of Dollars In Revenue And Employ Thousands.” According to the Associated Press, “Colorado is the nation’s No. 7 energy state, and its coal, oil and gas industries produce billions of dollars in revenue and employ thousands.” [Associated Press, [2/20/15](#)]

AFP WORKED TO KILL OFF THE WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT, WHICH SUSTAINS THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN COLORADO

Denver Post: “About 5,000 Jobs In Colorado Are Tied To Wind Power”

Denver Post: “About 5,000 Jobs In Colorado Are Tied To Wind Power, And The American Wind Energy Association Estimates That Almost 14 Percent Of The Electricity Generated In The State Last Year Came From Turbines.”

According to the Denver Post, “‘A three-week extension of the (wind tax credit) through only the end of 2014 would substantially limit wind energy investment in the United States,’ warned lobbyists for the American Wind Energy Association in an e-mail to congressional staffers. ‘An estimated 30,000 American workers would likely lose their jobs. Retroactive extensions do not stimulate new economic activity in an industry such as ours,’ they added. About 5,000 jobs in Colorado are tied to wind power, and the American Wind Energy Association estimates that almost 14 percent of the electricity generated in the state last year came from turbines. A big chunk of the jobs in Colorado are through the multinational company Vestas, which produces turbine parts at four facilities in the state and employs about 2,000 people in manufacturing.” [Denver Post, [12/3/14](#)]

AWEA: “The Biggest Job Growth” For The 2014 Wind Industry Was In Colorado. According to the Denver Post, “Almost 4,900 megawatts of wind projects were added in the U.S. in 2014 — four times the amount added in 2013, the trade group said in its annual report. That in turn spurred a rise in employment in the wind industry, which added 22,500 jobs for an industry total work force of 73,000. ‘The biggest job growth was in Colorado. That was due to Vestas, and that is going to continue’ said Emily Williams, a spokeswoman for AWEA.” [Denver Post, [4/15/15](#)]

2012: AFP-Colorado “Strongly” Opposed Extending The Wind Production Tax Credit

In 2012, Then-AFP-CO State Director Jeff Crank Sent A Letter To Colorado’s U.S. Senate Delegation To Write “In Strong Opposition To Extending Tax Breaks For Wind Energy.” According to a letter from AFP state director Jeff Crank posted on the Americans for Prosperity website, “Dear Senators Udall and Bennet and Representatives DeGette, Polis, Tipton, Gardner, Lamborn, Coffman, and Perlmutter: On behalf of more than 110,000 Americans for Prosperity (AFP) activists in Colorado, I am writing in strong opposition to extending tax breaks for wind energy. In early August, the Senate Finance Committee passed a measure (S.3521) that would renew and expand the primary federal support for wind energy, the wind production tax credit (PTC), which is scheduled to expire at the end of this year.” [AmericansforProsperity.org, [9/26/12](#)]

- **Crank’s Letter: “Hardworking Coloradoans Deserve An Energy Policy That Is Based On Market Principles, Not One That Is Based On Extending Handouts.”** According to a letter from AFP state director Jeff Crank posted on the Americans for Prosperity website, “Hardworking Coloradoans deserve an energy policy that is based on market principles, not one that is based on extending handouts to politically connected industries, such as the wind PTC. Enacting policies that threaten electrical grid reliability and drive up energy prices is not why they sent you to Washington.” [AmericansforProsperity.org, [9/26/12](#)]

2012-2013: After Congress Failed To Renew The Wind Production Tax Credit, Hundreds Of Coloradoans Were Laid Off From Wind Industry Jobs

Congress Allowed The Wind Production Tax Credit Expire At The End Of 2013. According to The Washington Post, “Congress allowed a variety of tax breaks, worth a total of about \$50 billion a year, to expire on Dec. 31. The 2013 production tax credit, designated specifically for wind power, cost \$12 billion over 10 years.” [Washington Post, [1/20/14](#)]

Vestas Operated Four Factories In Colorado, But After Congress Failed To Renew The Wind Production Tax Credit, Vestas Cut 700 Jobs—Almost 40% Of Its Workforce—Between 2012 And 2013. According to the Denver Post, “Vestas Wind Systems, based in Aarhus, Denmark, is the world's largest maker of wind turbines. It operates two factories in Brighton and one each in Windsor and Pueblo. [...] When the tax credit, a key element in financing wind projects, expired in 2012, orders for wind turbines plunged by 92 percent, the wind energy association said. In Colorado, Vestas cut about 700 jobs, almost 40 percent of its work force, between 2012 and 2013. Nationwide there was a loss of 30,000 wind industry jobs in 2013, the wind energy association said.” [Denver Post, [4/15/15](#)]

Independence Institute: Total Available Wind Energy Output “Decreased 92 Percent” When The Wind PTC Was Allowed To Expire

The Independence Institute, A Colorado-Based Free Market Think Tank: Total Available Wind Energy Output “Decreased 92 Percent” When The Wind PTC Was Allowed To Expire in 2013. According to the Washington Free Beacon, “Wind energy production declines significantly absent the subsidy, as seen when it last expired in 2013. According to the Independence Institute, a free market think tank based in Colorado, total available wind energy output decreased 92 percent that year. ‘In other words, almost all the wind power construction today exists only because of taxpayer subsidies,’ the organization said.” [Washington Free Beacon, [5/20/14](#)]

Pueblo Chieftain: When The Wind Credit Lapses, “Orders For Turbines Sharply Drop.” According to the Pueblo Chieftain, “The wind tax credit expired this year and unless Congress extends it through 2015 or beyond, the demand for wind turbines is likely to plunge. That has been the case over the 20-year history of the wind credit. When it lapses, orders for turbines sharply drop -- and that would be bad news for the Vestas plant south of Pueblo that builds the towers for the wind turbines.” [Pueblo Chieftain, [12/20/14](#)]

2014: AFP Released A Letter Urging Members Of Congress To Oppose Extending The Wind Production Tax Credit During The Lame Duck Session

In 2014, AFP Released A Letter Urging Members Of Congress To Oppose Extending The Wind Production Tax Credit During The Lame Duck Session. According to The Hill, “The conservative Americans for Prosperity is pressing Congress to oppose an extension of tax credits for the wind power industry. In a letter sent on Monday to Congress, the group argues lawmakers should ‘reject efforts to extend this handout for the wind energy industry’ in any tax extender legislation brought forward during the lame-duck session.” [Hill, [11/10/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek: The Wind Production Tax Credit Means Wind Energy Producers Only “Need To Focus On Ensuring That The Tax Credits Keep Flowing.” According to a guest column by then-AFP State Director Dustin Zvonek, “So long as tax credits are handed to the wind energy industry, we have no choice whether we're going to support wind power. That means wind energy producers don't have to worry about providing the most affordable or most efficient product; they just need to focus on ensuring that the tax credits keep flowing. A business that focuses more on lobbying and earning special treatment rather than on attracting customers and innovating might as well call itself a government agency.” [The Colorado Gazette, [5/3/2014](#)]

In 2013, AFP-Colorado Accused Colorado Senator Mark Udall Of “Shilling For Big Wind,” Which It Labeled As “Bullshit.” According to a tweet from AFP-Colorado, “The Whine-O-Meter has been fixed. Just in time for @MarkUdall to start shilling for Big Wind again #copolitics #coleg” The tweet linked to a graphic which read “BULLSHIT.” [AFP-Colorado – Twitter.com, [11/8/13](#)]



[AFP-Colorado – Twitter.com, [11/8/13](#)]

2014: After The Wind Production Tax Credit Was Restored, Wind Energy Company Vestas Announced It Was Hiring Nearly 1500 New Workers

After The Wind Production Tax Credit Was Restored, Vestas Announced It Was Hiring 850 Workers In 2014 And 600 In 2015. According to the Denver Post, “Vestas Wind Systems, based in Aarhus, Denmark, is the world's largest maker of wind turbines. It operates two factories in Brighton and one each in Windsor and Pueblo. In March 2014, Vestas announced it was hiring 850 workers, and the company said it plans to hire 600 people this year. The hires came after the federal wind production tax credit — which gives a new wind farm a \$22 credit for each megawatt-hour it generates — was restored.” [Denver Post, [4/15/15](#)]

RENEWABLE ENERGY

AFP Lobbied To Slash The Electric Renewable Energy Standard By 50 Percent

AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields Lobbied To Reduce The Electric Renewable Energy Standard.

According to a lobbyist disclosure report filed by AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields, Fields lobbied for SB 044, the Electric Renewable Energy Standard Reduction bill. [Lobbyist Disclosure Report, SB 044, [February 2015](#)]

The Bill Would Have “Have Cut In Half The Requirement That The State's Largest Utilities Get 30 Percent Of Their Power From Wind, Solar And Other Renewable Sources By 2020.” According to The Denver Post, “A House committee on Monday killed legislation that would have cut in half the requirement that the state's largest utilities get 30 percent of their power from wind, solar and other renewable sources by 2020. Senate Bill 44 also would have reduced the standard for rural electricity associations from 20 percent to 15 percent starting in 2020. The bill died on a party-line 6-5 vote, with Democrats in opposition to the rollback.” [Denver Post, [3/2/15](#)]

AFP Lobbied Against A Bill That Doubled The Renewable-Energy Target For Rural Electric Cooperatives And Spent Over \$17,300 On Communication Efforts To Counter It

Sean Paige, AFP-CO Deputy Director Until 2014, Lobbied Against The Renewable Energy Standard Wholesale Methane Bill. According to a lobbyist disclosure report filed by Sean Paige, the AFP-Colorado deputy director until 2014, Paige lobbied against SB 252, the Renewable Energy Standard Wholesale Methane bill. [Lobbyist Disclosure Report, SB 252, [May 2013](#)]

AFP-Colorado Spent Over \$17,300 On Communications Efforts To Urge The Governor To Veto The Renewable Energy Standard Wholesale Methane Bill. According to a lobbyist disclosure report filed by Sean Paige, the AFP-Colorado deputy director until 2014, Americans For Prosperity spent a total of \$17,376.61 on Bullhorn Communications, NewsSpeak Media and CMS (Robo Calling) in an effort to urge the Governor to veto SB 252, the Renewable Energy Standard Wholesale Methane bill. [Lobbyist Disclosure Report, SB 252, [May 2013](#)]

Gov. Hickenlooper Signed The Bill In 2013, Which Doubled The Renewable-Energy Target For Rural Electric Cooperatives. According to The Denver Post, “In a move to boost renewable-energy generation in Colorado, Gov. John Hickenlooper on Wednesday signed a controversial bill doubling the renewable-energy target for rural electric cooperatives. ‘No question that the country as a whole is looking for, wanting cleaner fuels,’ Hickenlooper said. The governor said, however, the bill was ‘imperfect’ and issued an executive order to review its most contentious issues: the compliance deadline and the cost. The new law requires cooperatives to supply 20 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020. They had been facing a 10 percent requirement by 2020.” [Denver Post, [6/5/13](#)]

CLIMATE CHANGE

AFP-Colorado State Director Criticized Sen. Mark Udall For Participating In A Climate Change Event And Said It Showed “How Disconnected” He Seemed From “The Down-To-Earth Worries Of Average Coloradans.” According to a press release on the Americans for Prosperity – Colorado’s website, “Dustin Zvonek, who leads Colorado’s largest grassroots free-market group, today chided Colorado Sen. Mark Udall for participating in tonight’s U.S. Senate climate change ‘all-nighter,’ while common-sense Coloradans back home are confronting more earthly concerns, like where to get a job, how to pay utility bills and what they’ll owe Uncle Sam when they file their tax returns next month. Tonight’s event, which AFP derides as an ‘Alarmathon,’ is tied to no particular piece of pending legislation or action, raising questions about timing and motive. Udall’s participation comes just weeks after he traveled to California for an intimate meeting with Al Gore and billionaire climate movement financier Tom Steyer, leading some to suggest that the climate event is being staged to please a major donor of Democrats who toe the alarmist line. But Zvonek said the worst thing about tonight’s media event is how disconnected Udall seems from the down-to-earth worries of average Coloradans.” [Americans For Prosperity – Colorado Press Release, [3/10/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado “Applauded” A Colorado Lawmaker For Signing The Group’s “No Climate Tax Pledge” To “Oppose Legislation Relating To Climate Change That Includes A Net Increase In State Revenue.” According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “The Colorado chapter of the grassroots free-market group Americans for Prosperity (AFP-CO) today applauded Colorado State Representative Marsha Looper (CO-19) for signing the group’s ‘No Climate Tax Pledge.’ By doing so, Looper pledges to ‘oppose legislation relating to climate change that includes a net increase in state revenue.’” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/1/08](#)]

- **AFP-Colorado’s Founder Jim Pfaff: “The One Thing Elected Officials Should Be Able To Agree On Is That Global Warming Shouldn’t Be Used As An Excuse To Hike Taxes On Citizens And Businesses.”** According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “‘The one thing elected officials should be able to agree on is that global warming shouldn’t be used as an excuse to hike taxes on citizens and businesses,’ said AFP-CO Jim Pfaff. ‘We encourage all of Colorado’s elected officials and candidates for elected office to sign the pledge.’” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [8/1/08](#)]

FRACKING

AFP-Colorado Listed Opposing Legislation “That Would Enable Localities To Ban Fracking” As One Of Its Top Priorities For The 2015 Legislative Session. According to a list of AFP-Colorado’s priorities for the 2015 legislative session, “In the 2015 Colorado Legislative Session, Americans for Prosperity intends to promote the following goals: [...] Oppose legislation that would enable localities to ban fracking – which would stifle our state’s ability to responsibly develop our natural resources[.]” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [January 2015](#)]

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-Colorado State Director Until 2015 Stated He Was “Concerned” About A Proposed 2014 Proposition That Would Have Given Local Governments Control To Ban Fracking. According to Politico Magazine, “But Americans For Prosperity, the Koch Brothers-aligned outfit that’s already planning to pump millions into top Senate races to take out Democrats like Udall, doesn’t want the local control issue on the November ballot. ‘My concern is that the consequences a policy like this would have on our state far outweigh any perceived political opportunities,’ AFP’s Colorado director, Dustin Zvonek, told me. ‘The way the proponents are couching it, calling it ‘local control,’ it scares me. I think they could message it in a way that it passes without voters understanding that it’s a fracking ban.’ (In truth, the local control measures would leave it up to individual cities to pass local bans.) Hickenlooper might have to lean on both industry and a handful of Democratic legislators from liberal Boulder County to pull together a winning hand. ‘Industry and the environmental community have come together in Colorado to pass air emissions and frack fluid disclosure regulations that are a national model,’ Hickenlooper told me. ‘Striking the right balance between local control and private property rights is the next big challenge.’” [Politico.com/magazine, [4/15/14](#)]

- **Zvonek: “The Way The Proponents Are Couching It, Calling It ‘Local Control,’ It Scares Me. I Think They Could Message It In A Way That It Passes Without Voters Understanding That It’s A Fracking Ban.”** According to Politico Magazine, “But Americans For Prosperity, the Koch Brothers-aligned outfit that’s already planning to pump millions into top Senate races to take out Democrats like Udall, doesn’t want the local control issue on the November ballot. ‘My concern is that the consequences a policy like this would have on our state far outweigh any perceived political opportunities,’ AFP’s Colorado director, Dustin Zvonek, told me. ‘The way the proponents are couching it, calling it ‘local control,’ it scares me. I think they could message it in a way that it passes without voters understanding that it’s a fracking ban.’ (In truth, the local control measures would leave it up to individual cities to pass local bans.)” [Politico.com/magazine, [4/15/14](#)]

Then-AFP State Director Jeff Crank On Fracking: “So How Much Local Regulation Is Required To Ensure That We Do This Correctly? Not Much, If Any, Given The Multiple Layers Of Federal And State Regulations Already In Place.” According to an op-ed by then-AFP State Director Jeff Crank in The Gazette, “Naysayers are applying a standard to fracking that they don't apply to any other technology. So how much local regulation is required to ensure that we do this correctly? Not much, if any, given the multiple layers of federal and state regulations already in place. I urge City Council to not attempt to fix an imagined problem, or to micromanage an industry about which they know very little. Better to leave that to levels of government with existing experience and oversight responsibility.” [Jeff Crank – The Gazette, 5/23/12]

Crank On Fracking: “I Urge City Council To Not Attempt To Fix An Imagined Problem, Or To Micromanage An Industry About Which They Know Very Little.” According to an op-ed by then-AFP State Director Jeff Crank in The Gazette, “Naysayers are applying a standard to fracking that they don't apply to any other technology. So how much local regulation is required to ensure that we do this correctly? Not much, if any, given the multiple layers of federal and state regulations already in place. I urge City Council to not attempt to fix an imagined problem, or to micromanage an industry about which they know very little. Better to leave that to levels of government with existing experience and oversight responsibility.” [Jeff Crank – The Gazette, 5/23/12]

AFP-Colorado Presented Showings Of “FrackNation”. According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “FrackNation [sic] A Journalists Search For The Fracking TruthA [sic] Documentary Film by Directors Phelim McAleer – Ann McElhinney – Presented by Longmont Republican Women and Americans For Prosperity Foundation[.]” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [5/9/14](#)]

- **“FrackNation” Attempted To Dispute “Gasland’s” Claims On Fracking And Prove That Shale Gas “Might Be ‘The Miracle Of The 21st Century.’”** According to The New York Times, “If your only exposure to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking — the process of extracting natural gas from shale — has been Josh Fox’s alarming documentary, ‘Gasland,’ then ‘FrackNation’ would like your attention. Claiming that Mr. Fox’s chilling conclusions are misleading at best, Phelim McAleer and his fellow directors, Ann McElhinney and Magdalena Segieda, attempt to prove that shale gas just might be ‘the miracle of the 21st century.’ [...] What’s clear is that Mr. McAleer knows his way around the Freedom of Information Act and has done his legwork. Besides talking to carefully selected scientists and water experts, he visits pro-fracking residents of Dimock Township, Pa., who are annoyed that their community is being characterized as a toxic wasteland.” [New York Times, [1/10/13](#)]

KEYSTONE XL

In January 2015, AFP-Colorado Announced That It Would Focus On “Approving The Keystone Pipeline.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “AFP Colorado will be focusing on real efforts to create prosperity for all Americans which includes restoring the 40 hour work week, ending the gas tax, approving the Keystone Pipeline, defending the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and cutting government spending.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [1/21/15](#)]

- **In March 2015, The Senate “Failed To Override President Obama’s Veto” Of The Keystone Pipeline.** According to The New York Times, “The Senate on Wednesday failed to override President Obama’s veto of a bill that would have approved construction of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline. A bipartisan majority of senators were unable to reach the two-thirds vote required to undo a presidential veto. The vote was 62 to 37.” [New York Times, [3/5/15](#)]

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015: The Keystone XL Pipeline Would Have Created “Over 40,000 New Jobs,” Added “\$172 Billion To The Economy” And Would Have Helped “Keep Gas Prices Low.” According to an opinion by AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek in the Times-Call, “What if I told you there was an infrastructure project that would create over 40,000 new jobs, add \$172 billion to the economy, help keep gas prices low — and, most importantly, wouldn't cost taxpayers a single dollar? Now what if I told you that such a project does indeed exist — but that President Obama vetoed it. That's what happened to bipartisan legislation that would have approved the long-awaited Keystone XL pipeline, which would bring oil from Canada to U.S. refineries along the Gulf Coast. After 6 long years of President Obama dithering on this privately-funded infrastructure project, the newly-elected Congress sent legislation to his desk that would have finally gotten this shovel-ready project underway — only to be met with obstruction and a refusal to compromise from the White House.” [Dustin Zvonek – Times-Call, [3/22/15](#)]

Zvonek: “Colorado's Senators, Michael Bennet And Cory Gardner, Both Voted To Approve Keystone XL And We Applaud Them For Listening To Their Constituents.” According to an opinion by AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek in the Times-Call, “Colorado's senators, Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner, both voted to approve Keystone XL and we applaud them for listening to their constituents. Fully two-thirds of Coloradans stand behind them. About the only thing garnering such broad agreement in today's partisan times is our disdain for political gridlock. And now that Congress finally did its job in passing legislation that would help America's middle class, the president won't do his.” [Dustin Zvonek – Times-Call, [3/22/15](#)]

Zvonek: “The President And The Environmental Lobby Continue To Claim That The Pipeline Could Contribute To Climate Change,” But It Would Have “Essentially Zero Impact.” According to an opinion by AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek in the Times-Call, “Yet despite these promising jobs and economic gains, President Obama has now spent over six years deciding on its fate — that's longer than it took the Allies to win World War II. So what's the hold-up? The president and the environmental lobby continue to claim that the pipeline could contribute to climate change, along with a kitchen sink of other ostensible ills. The facts say otherwise. According to President Obama's own State Department, construction of Keystone XL would have essentially zero impact on climate change. This conclusion was based on information from eight federal agencies — including the Departments of Energy, Defense, and Interior — that all reached the same verdict: Keystone XL will not harm the environment, either globally or here at home.” [Dustin Zvonek – Times-Call, [3/22/15](#)]

EPA REGULATIONS

AFP-Colorado Named Rolling Back “The Costly Green Energy Mandate Across The State” As One Of Its 2015 Legislative Priorities. According to a list of AFP-Colorado’s priorities for the 2015 legislative session, “In the 2015 Colorado Legislative Session, Americans for Prosperity intends to promote the following goals: [...] Roll back the costly green energy mandate across the state [.]”[AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [January 2015](#)]

AFP Was Against Implementing “Clean Power Plan” In Colorado

AFP-Colorado Wanted To “Support Legislation That Would Prohibit Colorado From Submitting A State Implementation Plan” For Clean Power Plan “Until The Legal Questions... Are Resolved.” According to a list of AFP-Colorado’s priorities for the 2015 legislative session, “In the 2015 Colorado Legislative Session, Americans for Prosperity intends to promote the following goals: [...] Support legislation that would prohibit Colorado from submitting a State Implementation Plan for President Obama’s sweeping EPA rules until the legal questions surrounding the new rules on power plants are resolved [.]”[AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [January 2015](#)]

AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields: “Clean Power Plan’ Will Force Coloradans To Pay \$613 More For Energy.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Americans for Prosperity Colorado, the state’s foremost advocate for economic freedom, released the following statement in regards to the University of Denver climate roundtable today at 11AM: ‘The environmental extremists and big-government regulators can get together and talk all they want, but nothing changes the fact that their ‘Clean Power Plan’ will force Coloradans to pay \$613 more for energy each and every year,’ said State Director Michael Fields.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [6/24/15](#)]

Fields: Clean Power Plan “Will Result In More Red Tape, Higher Energy Costs, And Fewer Jobs For Hard Working Colorado Families.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “Americans for Prosperity Colorado, the state’s foremost advocate for economic freedom, released the following statement in regards to the University of Denver climate roundtable today at 11AM: [...] ‘Their plan will result in more red tape, higher energy costs, and fewer jobs for hard working Colorado families. What these leaders should instead be discussing is how they are going to protect middle-class families from the cost increases and lost jobs they’ll suffer as a result of their big-government plan.’” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [6/24/15](#)]

AFP Lobbied For A Bill That Could Delay Colorado From Creating A Plan To Reduce Carbon Pollution And Could Cost \$300,000

AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields Lobbied For A Coordinated Review CO2 Emission Reduction Measures. According to a lobbyist disclosure report filed by AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields, Fields lobbied for SB 258, Coordinated Review CO2 Emission Reduction Measures. [Lobbyist Disclosure Report, SB 258, [April 2015](#)]

- **The Bill “Would Require The Public Utilities Commission And Both Chambers Of The Legislature To Sign Off On The State Air-Quality Control Plan On Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Coal-Fired Power Plants.”** According to The Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “Led by Republicans, some Colorado Senate members want to slow down and sniff out the regulations the U.S. Environmental Agency’s Clean Power Plan. Senate Bill 258 would require the Public Utilities Commission and both chambers of the legislature to sign off on the state air-quality control plan on reducing carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. The bill passed the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee Thursday afternoon.” [Denver Post, [4/9/15](#)]
- **American Legislative Council’s Model Legislation Would Also Require The Legislature To Approve Any Plan To Implement EPA’s Carbon Dioxide Emissions Guidelines For Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants.** According to the American Legislative Council’s website, “EPA has proposed ‘guidelines’ to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired power plants. The EPA proposal requires states to make unprecedented changes to their electricity systems and significantly reduce the consumption of electricity by consumers. The proposal is projected to cause double-digit electricity price increases in most States and threaten electric reliability. EPA intends to finalize its proposal in June 2015, and states are required to submit implementation plans to EPA as early as June 2016. The model legislation below ensures the State legislature protects the interests of the State’s citizens by reviewing and approving any plan to implement EPA’s guidelines before the plan is submitted to EPA.” [ALEC.org, accessed [7/23/15](#)]

Conservation Colorado Executive Director Pete Maysmith: “Senate Bill 258 Is A Thinly Veiled Attempt To Delay And Add Unneeded Bureaucracy To Creating A Colorado Plan To Reduce Carbon Pollution.” According to The Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “Conservation Colorado Executive Director Pete Maysmith issued a statement. ‘Senate Bill 258 is a thinly veiled attempt to delay and add unneeded bureaucracy to creating a Colorado plan to reduce carbon pollution,’ he said. ‘The Colorado legislature and interested stakeholders will have ample opportunity to weigh in through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which has the knowledge and background on clean air and public health issues in Colorado’[.]” [Denver Post, [4/9/15](#)]

Legislative Analysis Indicated The Bill Would Cost Taxpayers \$312,083 In 2015

Legislative Analysis Of The Bill Indicated It “Would Cost \$312,083” In 2015. According to The Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “The bill passed the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee Thursday afternoon. It heads now to the Senate Appropriations Committee, because a legislative analysis indicates it would cost \$312,083 this year and at least one new state employee.” [Denver Post, [4/9/15](#)]

AFP Was Against The Waters Of The U.S Rule

AFP-Colorado: “The Waters Of The U.S Rule Threatens Property Rights And Drowns Land Owners In Red Tape.” According to KRAI.com, “Americans for Prosperity Colorado has taken an official stand on the Environmental Protection Agency’s newly finalized ‘Waters of the United States rule,’ which will drastically expand the power granted to the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act. The group issued a statement yesterday that said in part ‘The Waters of the U.S rule threatens property rights and drowns land owners in red tape.’” [KRAI.com, [5/30/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado “Blasted Senator Michael Bennet For Not Taking A Stand” On The “Waters Of The United States Rule.” According to KRAI.com, “Americans for Prosperity Colorado has taken an official stand on the Environmental Protection Agency’s newly finalized ‘Waters of the United States rule,’ which will drastically expand the power granted to the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act. The group issued a statement yesterday that said in part ‘The Waters of the U.S rule threatens property rights and drowns land owners in red tape.’ They also blasted Senator Michael Bennet for not taking a stand on the issue.” [KRAI.com, [5/30/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado: The “Waters Of The United States Rule” Will “Have A Serious Impact On Colorado’s Economy – Particularly In Agriculture. It’s Important That Our Lawmakers Work Swiftly To Overturn This Rule.” According to KRAI.com, “Americans for Prosperity Colorado has taken an official stand on the Environmental Protection Agency’s newly finalized ‘Waters of the United States rule,’ which will drastically expand the power granted to the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act. [...] They said ‘the new rule will have a serious impact on Colorado’s economy—particularly in agriculture. It’s important that our lawmakers work swiftly to overturn this rule.’” [KRAI.com, [5/30/15](#)]

AFP-Colorado “Feels” The “Waters Of The United States Rule” Would “Come With Significant Compliance Costs For Colorado Landowners And Family Farmers While Infringing On Their Rights.” According to KRAI.com, “By redefining the ‘waters of the U.S.’ from its current definition in the Clean Water Act to ‘navigable waters’ the EPA now has the ability to regulate conceivably any area water flows through. This would include dry creek beds, irrigation ditches, and even simply standing water. The group [AFP-Colorado] feels the new rule would come with significant compliance costs for Colorado landowners and family farmers while infringing on their rights.” [KRAI.com, [5/30/15](#)]

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

The State Director Of AFP-CO Called Ron Binz An “Environmental Extremist” With An “Anti-Energy Consumer Agenda” And Criticized Sen. Udall For Supporting His Nomination For FERC Chairman. According to a statement from AFP Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek on the Americans for Prosperity Colorado’s website, “America’s energy policy is just too critical to our economic vitality to be left in the hands of environmental extremists with an anti-energy consumer agenda to push, which is why we were pleased today to see Colorado’s Ron Binz fail in his bid to become FERC chairman. [...] We hope this also serves as a lesson to Colorado Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, who rolled out the red carpet for, and gave a glowing recommendation to, a nominee who was too out of the mainstream to be confirmed by Senate colleagues. Their job as senators isn’t to rubber-stamp any radical the President puts forward, but to thoroughly vet and question a nominee with the interests of Colorado foremost in mind. Their failure to do due diligence in this case leaves both senators with green egg on their faces.” [Press Release - AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [10/1/13](#)]

CARBON TAX

AFP-CO Web Ad Criticized Sen. Udall For Not Blocking A Carbon Tax. According to an ad on the Americans for Prosperity website, “Sen. Udall refused to block a carbon tax. Click here to tell him you can’t afford it.” [AmericansForProsperity.org, accessed [4/14/14](#)]

Americans For Prosperity Said That Federal Land Should Be Sold

Americans For Prosperity Said That Federal Land Should Be Sold. According to Americans for Prosperity’s comments on FY14 appropriations, “The U.S. government owns over half the land of five western states (NV, AK, UT, OR, and ID) and over a third of the land of five more (AZ, CA, WY, NM, and CO). Yet, in 2012, Congress appropriated \$187 million for four agencies (Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and National Forest Service) to

buy even more. We should be selling federal land, not acquiring it, especially since agencies have identified millions of acres they don't need." [Americans for Prosperity comments on FY14 appropriations, [6/13](#)]

- **Colorado Had "8.3 Million Acres Of BLM Public Lands, Along With 27 Million Acres Of Mineral Estate" In 2015.** According to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management's website, "Colorado's 8.3 million acres of BLM public lands, along with 27 million acres of mineral estate, are concentrated primarily in the western portion of the State. The lands range from alpine tundra, colorful canyons, and mesas in the southwest, to rolling sage-covered hills in the northwest. These public lands play a vital role in providing open space and contribute to Colorado's quality of life." [BLM.gov/CO, accessed [7/13/15](#)]

Americans For Prosperity Was Listed As A "Bronze" Member On The American Lands Council Website. According to the American Lands Council website, Americans For Prosperity was a "bronze" level member of the American Lands Council. [AmericanLandsCouncil.org, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

- **American Lands Council's Mission Is "To Secure Local Control Of Western Public Lands By Transferring Federal Public Lands" To States.** According to the mission of the American Lands Council on the ALC's website, "The Mission of the American Lands Council is to secure local control of western public lands by transferring federal public lands to willing States. ALC is leading the charge by giving leaders the knowledge and courage to battle for the only solution big enough to ensure better access, better health, AND better productivity through the Transfer of Public Lands (TPL) to local stewardship." [AmericanLandsCouncil.org, accessed [6/26/15](#)]

Attacks On Working Families

AFP WANTED TO MAKE COLORADO A RIGHT TO WORK STATE

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-Colorado State Director Until 2015: By Colorado Becoming A Right To Work State, It "Would Send A Message That It Stands Proudly For Worker Freedom." According to an AFP-Colorado web post by Dustin Zvonek, the AFP-Colorado state director until 2015, "Former rustbelt relics Indiana and Michigan have announced to the world that they are open again for business by approving Right to Work Laws. By doing the same, Colorado would send a message that it stands proudly for worker freedom. Indiana is also leading the way with tax reform, passing legislation that brings its income tax rate down to the second lowest in the nation." [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [6/25/15](#)]

AFP WANTED TO RESTORE THE 40 HOUR WORK WEEK TO COLORADOANS

AFP-Colorado Announced It Would Be Focusing On "Restoring The 40 Hour Work Week." According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, "AFP Colorado will be focusing on real efforts to create prosperity for all Americans which includes restoring the 40 hour work week, ending the gas tax, approving the Keystone Pipeline, defending the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and cutting government spending." [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [1/21/15](#)]

AFP WAS AGAINST GRANTING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS TO FIREFIGHTERS

AFP-Colorado Called A Bill That Would Grant Collective Bargaining Rights For All Firefighters A "One-Size-Fits-All Mandate" That Would "Place Cities In A Fiscal Bind And Usurp Local Control." According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, "It's rare that the liberal mayor of Boulder and conservative mayor of Colorado Springs strongly agree on something. When they do, we need to take notice. What the two agree on is that Senate Bill-25 — a bill that would grant collective bargaining rights for firefighters in those and other cities across the state — is a one-size-fits-all mandate that will place cities in a fiscal bind and usurp local control on a critically-important issue in which the state shouldn't meddle." [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [2/1/13](#)]

AFP-Colorado: "Forced Unionization Of Firefighters ... Threatens To Degrade The Performance And Capabilities Of Our Critically-Important First Responders." According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, "What municipal governments choose to pay firefighters, and how they choose to negotiate with them, has always been a matter of local control in Colorado. There's no compelling reason to change that now. This is just a muscle-flexing exercise by big labor interests,

who want to take advantage of one-party rule in Colorado. Forced unionization of firefighters not only threatens to degrade the performance and capabilities of our critically-important first responders, but it could place huge new strains on local budgets that we just can't afford." [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [2/1/13](#)]

AFP-Colorado: "Let's Hope Legislators Show More Respect For Local Government Control By Killing This Bill Before It Lands On The Governor's Desk." According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, "The last time a bill like this got through the Statehouse, it took the veto pen of a Democrat, then Gov. Bill Ritter, to defend the interests of local government against this power-grab by big labor. And we would hope Gov. John Hickenlooper would take the same action, though he's taken no official position on the bill. Let's hope legislators show more respect for local government control by killing this bill before it lands on the governor's desk." [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [2/1/13](#)]

AFP-Colorado Urged Members To Contact Their Senators On The Firefighter Collective Bargaining Bill And Included Their Contact Information. According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, "Take action now, by contacting your senators at the numbers below about this wrong-headed bill. A few minutes of your time can make a big difference in whether this misguided piece of legislation survives." [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado/article, [2/1/13](#)]

Export-Import Bank

AFP-COLORADO ARGUED THAT LAWMAKERS SHOULD LET THE EX-IM BANK EXPIRE BECAUSE IT DID "NEXT TO NOTHING FOR COLORADO'S SMALL BUSINESSES"...

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-CO State Director Until 2015: "Ex-Im Does Next To Nothing For Colorado's Small Businesses, And It's Bad For The American Economy Overall." According to an opinion by AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek in The Denver Post, "Call a spade a spade. Last month in Colorado, that meant calling the U.S. Export-Import Bank a clear example of corporate welfare. How else to describe a New Deal-era federal agency that uses our tax dollars to subsidize some of America's and foreign countries' largest corporations? Yet that's not what Coloradans heard when Ex-Im's president, Fred Hochberg, visited Denver to tout the bank's importance to the state's economy. With Ex-Im's charter set to expire next month, Mr. Hochberg and the bank's corporate beneficiaries have engaged in a furious PR campaign to convince Congress—and the Colorado public—that Ex-Im is a champion of small business and is vital to the American economy. Coloradans and our elected representatives shouldn't buy it. Ex-Im does next to nothing for Colorado's small businesses, and it's bad for the American economy overall." [Dustin Zvonek – [6/9/15](#)]

Zvonek: Ex-Im "Currently Supports Less Than 2 Percent Of All American Exports — And Only 1.3 Percent Here In Colorado." According to an opinion by AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek in The Denver Post, "This isn't the only area in which the Export-Import Bank falls short. The bank's other main argument — that it is vital to the U.S. economy — is also bunk. It currently supports less than 2 percent of all American exports — and only 1.3 percent here in Colorado." [Dustin Zvonek – [6/9/15](#)]

Zvonek: "Our Elected Representatives In Washington Should Put Our Interests Above Special Interests And Allow The Export-Import Bank's Charter To Expire." According to an opinion by AFP-Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek in The Denver Post, "Our elected representatives in Washington should put our interests above special interests and allow the Export-Import Bank's charter to expire next month." [Dustin Zvonek – [6/9/15](#)]

...BUT EX-IM BANK HAS HELPED SMALL BUSINESS IN COLORADO

In Colorado, The Export-Import Bank "Authorized Financing To Support Approximately \$586 Million Of Exports From More Than 80 Exporters Since 2010." According to The Denver Post, "The bank provides loans, loan guarantees or insurance to ensure U.S. exporters will get paid by their customers. The bank said 90 percent of its customers nationally are small businesses, and that its financing supported more than 164,000 U.S. jobs last fiscal year. In Colorado, the bank said it has authorized financing to support approximately \$586 million of exports from more than 80 exporters since 2010. About 70 percent of its customers in the state are small businesses." [Denver Post, [5/4/15](#)]

“About 70 Percent” Of The Ex-Im Bank’s Customers In Colorado Were Small Businesses. According to The Denver Post, “In Colorado, the bank said it has authorized financing to support approximately \$586 million of exports from more than 80 exporters since 2010. About 70 percent of its customers in the state are small businesses.” [Denver Post, [5/4/15](#)]

Colorado Small Business Droplet Measurement “Was Named Ex-Im Bank’s 2015 Small Business Exporter Of The Year For Its Work In Cloud And Aerosol Measurements.” According to the Denver Business Journal, “Droplet Measurement was named Ex-Im Bank’s 2015 Small Business Exporter of the Year for its work in cloud and aerosol measurements. Roughly two-thirds of its sales come from exports.” [Denver Business Journal, [5/4/15](#)]

- **Droplet Measurement “Boosted Its Exports And Local Employment By Using Trade Credit Insurance From Ex-Im Bank.”** According to the Denver Business Journal, “And while it highlights, for example, that Droplet Measurement has boosted its exports and local employment by using trade credit insurance from Ex-Im Bank, it faces a host of critics who want to shut it down.” [Denver Business Journal, [5/4/15](#)]

Health Care

AFP ADVOCATED FOR REPLACING COLORADO’S MEDICAID PROGRAM WITH “A BLOCK GRANT” AND USING IT AS A “PILOT PROJECT”

AFP Advocated For Replacing Colorado’s Medicaid Program With “A Block Grant” And Using The State As A “Pilot Project For Reform.” According to a report from AFP-Colorado titled, Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose, “Work with the Obama Administration to make Colorado a leader in Medicaid reform: Medicaid is placing increasing pressure on the state budget, crowding out funding for prisons, schools and roads. Governor Ritter and lawmakers have made the problem worse, unwilling to resist the temptation to add more Coloradans to the Medicaid rolls. Lawmakers should work with the Obama Administration to help implement a massive overhaul of Medicaid by making Colorado a pilot project for reform. The traditional menu of mandatory and optional services and populations dictated by Washington through a shared funding scheme between the federal and state government should be replaced with a block grant and full flexibility of Colorado lawmakers to target resources to the people most in need.” [Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose via AmericansForProsperity.org, [11/23/2009](#)]

AFP-Colorado: “Every Effort Should Be Made To Encourage Appropriate Medicaid Populations To Move Off The Medicaid Rolls In A Timely Manner.” According to a report from AFP-Colorado titled, Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose, “Work with the Obama Administration to make Colorado a leader in Medicaid reform: Medicaid is placing increasing pressure on the state budget, crowding out funding for prisons, schools and roads. Governor Ritter and lawmakers have made the problem worse, unwilling to resist the temptation to add more Coloradans to the Medicaid rolls. Lawmakers should work with the Obama Administration to help implement a massive overhaul of Medicaid by making Colorado a pilot project for reform. The traditional menu of mandatory and optional services and populations dictated by Washington through a shared funding scheme between the federal and state government should be replaced with a block grant and full flexibility of Colorado lawmakers to target resources to the people most in need. Every effort should be made to encourage appropriate Medicaid populations to move off the Medicaid rolls in a timely manner.” [Colorado In Transition: Killing The Golden Goose via AmericansForProsperity.org, [11/23/2009](#)]

AFP-COLORADO WAS AGAINST MEDICAID EXPANSION

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-Colorado State Director Until 2015: “Colorado Taxpayers Will Be On The Hook For The Enormous \$858 Million Cost Of Expanding The State Medicaid Program.” According to a web post by Dustin Zvonek, AFP-Colorado state director until 2015, for the AFP-Colorado website, “Hickenlooper also endorses a vast new expansion of our Medicaid program, as part of Obamacare, without explaining how he intends to pay for it in the long run. You see, while the federal government is providing funding for the first three years, Colorado taxpayers will be on the hook for the enormous \$858 million cost of expanding the state Medicaid program. The governor couldn’t muster even a single veto during the 2013 legislative session, as bad bill after bad bill emerged from a statehouse in which majority status bred a certain arrogance and extremism.” [Dustin Zvonek – AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [9/23/13](#)]

AFP-COLORADO WAS AGAINST THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

AFP-Colorado: “ObamaCare Hurts Colorado Families, Period.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “ObamaCare hurts Colorado families, period. No matter how much Senator Udall proclaims the benefits of the costly and inefficient health care bill, the truth is that real Colorado families are being hurt.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [9/26/13](#)]

AFP-Colorado On ACA: “As Costs Rise And Problems Associated With The Law Come To The Forefront, More And More Of The Well-Connected And Elites Have Taken Measures To Excuse Themselves From The Burdens.” According to a web post from AFP-Colorado, “President Obama’s signature piece of legislation, the Affordable Care act, has proven to be anything but. As costs rise and problems associated with the law come to the forefront, more and more of the well-connected and elites have taken measures to excuse themselves from the burdens. Obama claimed, ‘If you like your plan, you can keep it’, unless you’re an average American citizen, that is.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [9/26/13](#)]

Transportation

AFP LOBBIED AGAINST A BILL THAT WOULD “ENSURE A BOOST IN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND COULD HELP TO INCREASE EDUCATION SPENDING”

AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields Lobbied Against A Bill That Would Create A New Hospital Provider Fee Enterprise. According to a lobbyist disclosure report filed by AFP-Colorado State Director Michael Fields, Fields lobbied against HB 1389, Create New Hospital Provider Fee Enterprise. [Lobbyist Disclosure Report, HB 1389, [April 2015](#)]

- **The Bill Would Move The Hospital Provider Fee Out Of The General Fund Into What Is Known As ‘Enterprise Fund’ Status.** According to the Denver Business Journal, “Some Denver business leaders are pushing a state budget fix that would ensure a boost in transportation funding and could help to increase education spending simply by moving the six-year-old hospital provider fee out of the general fund into what is know [sic] as ‘enterprise fund’ status. However, with the Colorado Legislature’s Joint Budget Committee set to introduce its proposed budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year on Friday, the idea has not gained enough traction yet even to be discussed formally by the committee.” [Denver Business Journal, [3/26/15](#)]

The Bill Would “Ensure A Boost In Transportation Funding And Could Help To Increase Education Spending.” According to the Denver Business Journal, “Some Denver business leaders are pushing a state budget fix that would ensure a boost in transportation funding and could help to increase education spending simply by moving the six-year-old hospital provider fee out of the general fund into what is know [sic] as ‘enterprise fund’ status.” [Denver Business Journal, [3/26/15](#)]

THE KOCH AGENDA IN COLORADO: AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

ALEC Is Connected To The Kochs

ALEC Was Funded By Charles And David Koch. According to Al Jazeera America, “Looking to expand beyond its longtime role at the state government level, in 2014 ALEC launched the American City County Exchange (ACCE), which seeks to promote its pro-business legislation at the local level. [...] What concerns ACCE opponents even more than specific pieces of legislation, however, is the idea of so much corporate influence migrating down to the local government level. With annual funding of more than \$7 million from brothers Charles and David Koch and from multinational companies like ExxonMobil and Altria, an organization with ALEC’s resources will have outsize influence on small municipalities.” [Al Jazeera America, [6/18/15](#)]

Koch Companies Public Sector Was Represented On ALEC’s Private Enterprise Council As Of June 2015. According to the American Legislative Exchange Council’s website, Michael Morgan of Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC, sits on ALEC’s Private Enterprise Council. [ALEC.org, accessed [6/26/15](#)]

ALEC's Energy, Environment And Agriculture Task Force Included Koch Industries. According to the Boulder Weekly, "ALEC's Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force includes members from major fossil fuel companies like Exxon Mobil, Koch Industries, Duke Energy and Peabody Energy. It has approved model bill language to repeal or weaken renewable energy standards, according to the Energy and Policy Institute." [Boulder Weekly, [3/12/15](#)]

ALEC Offshoot Organization ACCE Has Been Funded By Charles And David Koch. According to Al Jazeera America, "Looking to expand beyond its longtime role at the state government level, in 2014 ALEC launched the American City County Exchange (ACCE), which seeks to promote its pro-business legislation at the local level. [...] What concerns ACCE opponents even more than specific pieces of legislation, however, is the idea of so much corporate influence migrating down to the local government level. With annual funding of more than \$7 million from brothers Charles and David Koch and from multinational companies like ExxonMobil and Altria, an organization with ALEC's resources will have outside influence on small municipalities." [Al Jazeera America, [6/18/15](#)]

ALEC Has Influenced A "Host Of Colorado Laws"

ALEC HAS "DEEP" TIES TO COLORADO LAWMAKERS

ALEC Influenced A "Host Of Colorado Laws." According to the Denver Post, "ALEC legislation has influenced a host of Colorado laws, including its health maintenance organization reform, which was based on an ALEC bill advocating a review board rather than letting patients sue their HMOs." [Denver Post, 3/1/02]

Colorado's ALEC Ties "Run Deep." According to the Denver Post, "The Colorado legislature's ties to ALEC run deep. State Sen. Dave Owen, R-Greeley, is on the national board and says at least 50 of Colorado's 100 legislators are members, including Democrats. Sen. Mark Hillman, R-Burlington, was the group's legislator of the year for 2001, and Sen. Bob Hagedorn, D-Aurora, chairs its Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force." [Denver Post, 3/1/02]

Half Of Colorado Legislators Were Members Of ALEC. According to the Denver Post, "At least half of Colorado's state lawmakers are members of a corporate-sponsored conservative group that, according to two national environmental groups, funnels big-business influence directly into state capitols. The environmental groups released a report detailing how the American Legislative Exchange Council, founded years ago as a conservative alternative to the Denver-based National Conference of State Legislatures, gives companies an easy way to pull the levers of power in statehouses across the country. 'ALEC is one-stop shopping for corporations willing to pay to influence state legislation,' said Greg Wetstone of the National Resources Defense Council, which drafted the report along with Defenders of Wildlife. The report dubs ALEC 'Corporate America's Trojan Horse in the States.'" [Denver Post, 3/1/02]

Ten Republican Colorado Lawmakers "Forced A Stalemate In The Legislature" While Attending An ALEC Conference In Las Vegas. According to The Coloradoan, "Republicans who went on a Las Vegas junket forced a stalemate in the Legislature Friday after leaving both houses shy of votes. Seven representatives and three senators were attending the American Legislative Exchange Council conference, billed as an opportunity to get some work done while enjoying high-stakes gaming, world-class golf and outdoor activities. The House ended up delaying action on a school reform bill after a three-hour debate. The Senate started the day with a shortened calendar because of the missing legislators." [The Coloradoan, [3/29/03](#)]

- **State Rep. David Schultheis: "I'm The Last One To Go On A Boondoggle."** According to The Coloradoan, "Rep. David Schultheis, R-Colorado Springs, said he went to the convention because it was an opportunity to learn more about Medicaid. 'I'm the last one to go on a boondoggle,' he said in an interview from a Las Vegas hotel. Schultheis said the conference offered information on a number of topics, including education, economic development and telecommunications. 'We're working from morning to night,' he said." [The Coloradoan, [3/29/03](#)]
- **"Democrats Allowed Republicans To Delay A Vote On The Bill Until Monday When Their Colleagues Returned From Las Vegas."** According to The Coloradoan, "While several Republicans were in another room getting free massages, Democrats used their votes to pass an amendment that added charter schools to the list of school districts that would have to comply with generally accepted accounting principles. That angered Republicans, who shut down action in the House for three hours while they worked out a compromise. The standoff ended when

Democrats allowed Republicans to delay a vote on the bill until Monday when their colleagues returned from Las Vegas. The amendment stayed on, at least for the weekend.” [The Coloradoan, [3/29/03](#)]

Colorado State Senator Mark Hillman Received A “Legislator Of The Year Award” From ALEC In 2001. According to an ALEC press release, “The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) honors Colorado Senator Mark Hillman today as a Legislator of the Year at the organization's 28th Annual Meeting. ‘Mark Hillman is one of the finest state legislators in the nation,’ said Duane Parde, ALEC's Executive Director of ALEC. ‘He's a leader who truly personifies the Jeffersonian principles of liberty, limited government, and free-markets.’” [ALEC press release via PR Newswire, 8/3/01]

- **Prior To Receiving The Award, Hillman Had Worked To Pass ALEC-Crafted Legislation.** According to an ALEC press release, “Senator Mark Hillman is Assistant Minority Leader of the Colorado Senate. He currently serves on the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Agriculture and Natural Resources, as well as the joint committee of the Legislative Council. Moreover, he has tirelessly worked to advance the Civil Justice agenda for the past two years, and in the 2000 legislative session he was able to acquire Senate passage of ALEC's Private Attorney Retention Sunshine Act.” [ALEC press release via PR Newswire, 8/3/01]
- **Hillman: It's Better For Private Companies, Rather Than Taxpayers, To Pay For Legislators.** According to the Denver Post, “The group holds annual conferences for legislators who often seek ‘scholarships’ from companies, some with bills before the lawmakers. Hillman said that having private companies foot the bill for legislators is better than making taxpayers pay the way. ‘I think ALEC provides a balance that these environmental groups don't like,’ Hillman said. ‘When you're going to regulate business and private property, you ought to hear from business and property owners.’” [Denver Post, 3/1/02]

Two More Colorado Senators Were ALEC's “Legislators Of The Year” In 2013. According to an Colorado State Senate Minority Office press release, “The Colorado State Senate Minority Office issued the following news: The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) honored two Colorado State Senators with their prestigious ‘Legislator of the Year’ award at their annual meeting in Chicago last week. Senator Kent Lambert (R-Colorado Springs) and Senator Kevin Lundberg (R-Berthoud) were recognized as legislators who have shown leadership in advancing public policy based on the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government and federalism.” [Colorado State Senate Minority Office Press release via Target News Service, 8/15/13]

Public Lands

ALEC DEVELOPED MODEL LEGISLATION ON THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO STATE CONTROL

In 2012, ALEC Developed Model Legislation For State Legislators Disposal And Taxation Of Public Lands Act. According to ALEC's website, the group developed model legislation called the “Disposal and Taxation of Public Lands Act.” [ALEC.org, [1/15/12](#)]

- **The Bill Calls For The Federal Government To “Immediately Dispose Of The Public Lands” Within A State's Borders.** According to the Disposal and Taxation of Public Lands Act as posted on ALEC's website, “NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of {insert state} demands that the Federal Government immediately dispose of the public lands within [state]'s borders directly to the state of [state]. [...] BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature calls for the creation of a [state] Public Lands Commission to review and manage multiple use of the public lands and to determine, through a public process, the extent to which public land may be sold.” [ALEC.org, [1/15/12](#)]

ALEC Member, Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg, Introduced A Federal Land Transfer Bill In Colorado The Same Year ALEC Released Its Model Legislation

In 2012, GOP State Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg Sponsored A Federal Land Transfer Bill In The Colorado General Assembly That Was Later Defeated. According to the La Junta Tribune-Democrat, “Lawmakers decided this week against a proposal that would have followed Utah and Hawaii in taking over federal agricultural lands that already are being used to help finance the state's public schools. House Bill 1322, sponsored by Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg, R - Sterling, sought to require

the federal government to transfer title of school trust lands to Colorado. The measure failed on an 8-5 vote in the House Education Committee. There are roughly 24 million acres of federally owned land in Colorado, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.” [La Junta Tribune-Democrat, 4/20/12]

- **Sonnenberg Was An ALEC Member.** According to an ALEC weekly email update, “ALEC member, Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg, CO (HD-65), writes to the Journal-Advocate of the adverse consequences the proposed EPA Clean Power Plan will have on states’ power production and economies, including jobs and family budgets.” [ALEC.org, [10/2/14](#)]

Sonnenberg Co-Sponsored A Federal Land Transfer Bill In 2015 That Stemmed From The Policies Of ALEC And The American Lands Council

In 2015, Sonnenberg Co-Sponsored A Public Land Transfer Bill That “Stems From” The Policies Of ALEC And The American Lands Council. According to the Aspen Daily News, “A Republican-sponsored bill that would study the transfer of federal lands to the state was passed by the Colorado Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee on Thursday on a 5-4 party-line vote, and will now go before the state Senate as a whole. [...] The bill stems from what has been coined a new ‘Sagebrush Rebellion’ that is being propped up by conservative nonprofit organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council and the American Lands Council. The Utah-based American Lands Council has fought for the transfer of public lands to local stewardship in its home state, and is also pushing for the same policy at the national level.” [Aspen Daily News, [4/25/15](#)]

- **The Bill Would “Create A Colorado Federal Land Management Commission” To “Conduct A Study To Address The Transfer Of Public Lands In Colorado.”** According to the Aspen Daily News, “Senate Bill 232, co-sponsored by Sens. Randy Baumgardner, R-Hot Sulphur Springs, and Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling, looks to create a Colorado federal land management commission of 15 members including two county commissioners from each region where at least half of the land is owned by the federal government; one commissioner from regions where less than 50 percent is federal land; and three members representing the Western Slope, and the southern and northeastern regions of the state. The bill would require the commission to ‘conduct a study to address the transfer of public lands in Colorado from the federal government to the state in contemplation of Congress turning over the management and control of those public lands to the state.’” [Aspen Daily News, [4/25/15](#)]
- **The Bill Was Defeated In The Full Senate By One Vote.** According to a web post by the Colorado Wildlife Federation, “Colorado Senate Bill 15-232 was defeated on April 28 on a narrow 18-17 vote. CWF applauded the outcome and thanked Senator Crowder for voting against the bill. Earlier the bill had passed out of the Agricultural, Natural Resources and Energy Committee on April 23 by 1 vote. It was introduced on March 24 to create a Colorado Federal Land Management Commission to study the transfer of public lands in Colorado managed by BLM and US Forest Service from the federal government to the state.” [ColoradoWildlife.org, [4/29/15](#)]

ALEC HAS A HISTORY WITH THE AMERICAN LANDS COUNCIL, A GROUP WHICH TRIES TO TURN FEDERAL LAND OVER TO THE STATES

The President Of The American Lands Council Is Utah State Rep. Ken Ivory. According to the American Lands Council website, “Ken Ivory (R-UT, District 47) was elected to the Utah House of Representatives in November of 2010. [...] As the president of the American Lands Council, Ken dedicates his time to educating legislators and community leaders throughout the states about their jurisdictional rights and duties to manage, protect, and care for the lands within our borders. Under Ken’s leadership, ALC is leading the charge to secure better access, better health, and better productivity of our public lands.” [AmericanLandsCouncil.org, accessed [6/18/15](#)]

- **ALEC Gave Ivory A “Legislator Of The Year Award” In 2014.** According to a web post by ALEC, “Representative Ken Ivory of Utah received the Legislator of the Year Award today from the American Legislative Exchange Council at the organization’s 41st Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.” [ALEC.org, [7/31/14](#)]

Ivory Has Presented His Proposals To Turn Over Federal Land To The States At ALEC Conferences. According to the Center for American Progress, “Utah State Rep. Ken Ivory (R), who is leading the charge for states to “take back” public

lands through his ‘American Lands Council,’ has been presenting the idea of turning federal land over to the states at ALEC conferences such as the one in Salt Lake City last summer.” [AmericanProgress.org, [3/11/13](#)]

ALEC Released A Model Public Policy Statement On The Transfer Of Public Lands To State Control That Was Ratified At An American Lands Council Workshop. According to ALEC’s public policy statement on the transfer of public lands, “Ninety-five state and locally elected officials joined a variety of experts from 14 states in Salt Lake City to draft and ratify a statement calling for land currently held by the federal government to be transferred to the states. This Draft Model Policy, ratified by unanimous consent on October 9, 2014 at American Lands Council (ALC) Multi-State Workshop convened in Salt Lake City, UT and on October 20, 2014 by ALC Board of Directors, resulted from that summit.” [ALEC.org, [1/9/15](#)]

American Lands Council (ALC) Was Accused Of “Lobbying Without A License” In Colorado

ALC Was Accused Of “Lobbying Without A License” In Colorado. According to an article in the Salt Lake City Weekly, “ALC is also facing a complaint from Colorado Ethics Watch that's been filed with Colorado's secretary of state alleging ALC is lobbying without a license.” [Salt Lake City Weekly, [6/24/15](#)]

The Colorado Ethics Watch Filed A Complaint Against The American Lands Council For “Illegal Lobbying.” According to the Utah Political Capitol, “A complaint has been filed against Utah Representative Ken Ivory’s (Republican – South Jordan) American Lands Council in Colorado, alleging that the organization has been illegally lobbying without registering in the state or reporting its income. Under Colorado law, organizations are required to register to lobby with the state before they begin trying to influence the outcome of any legislation or an election. ‘It’s different than the federal law,’ says Peg Perl, senior counsel for Colorado Ethics Watch – the nonprofit that filed the complaint with the Colorado Secretary of State. ‘Under [the federal law], there’s a threshold and you can do a little bit [of lobbying] before you register. But in Colorado, you must do it first and right away.’” [Utah Political Capitol, [5/2/15](#)]

The Complaint Originated From An Email ALC Sent To Colorado Residents Asking Them To Contact Their Legislators About The Transfer Of Public Lands. According to the Utah Political Capitol, “The complaint stems from an email Representative Ivory’s American Lands Council (ALC) sent to Colorado residents on April 22nd, asking them to contact specific state lawmakers to persuade them to vote in favor of a bill that could advance ALC’s goal of taking control of all public lands away from the United States and giving it to individual states to manage.” [Utah Political Capitol, [5/2/15](#)]

Multiple Colorado Counties Are Members Of The American Lands Council

Mesa And Montrose Counties In Colorado Were Listed By The American Lands Council As Dues-Paying Members. According to the American Lands Council-Colorado website, Mesa County was a “bronze” level member of the American Lands Council as of November 2014. Montrose County was a “silver” level member of the American Lands Council as of January 2014. [AmericanLandsCouncil.org/Colorado, accessed [6/19/15](#)]

Montezuma County, Colorado Was A Dues-Paying Member Of The American Lands Council. According to the Cortez Journal, “This month, the Montezuma County commissioners voted to support the American Lands Council, whose mission is to transfer federal land to the states. They [*sic*] county agreed to pay dues of \$1,000 per year to become a supporting member of the council.” [Cortez Journal, 3/30/15]

Montrose County, Colorado Drafted A Resolution To Study The Transfer Of Federal Lands To The State That Went To The American Lands Council For Approval. According to the Montrose Daily Press, “The Montrose County Commissioners took an official position promoting the transfer of public land controlled by the federal government to local entities during a meeting Monday morning. The commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the ‘study and full implementation of the timely transfer of federally controlled public lands to the state of Colorado.’ [...] The resolution will be sent to the American Lands Council and to local elected officials and others whose funding could be altered if the land changes hands.” [Montrose Daily Press, 7/8/14]

Energy/Environment

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARDS

American Legislative Exchange Council And Americans For Prosperity Worked Unsuccessfully In Colorado To Repeal Renewable Portfolio Standards

“ALEC And Its Allies, Such As Americans For Prosperity” Worked Unsuccessfully In Colorado To Repeal Renewable Portfolio Standards. According to EcoWatch, “In the last year, ALEC-affiliated legislators in multiple states introduced bills to repeal states renewable portfolio standards (RPS), which were widely established by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the last 10 years to encourage the growth of renewable energy industries, such as solar and wind, by requiring a certain percentage of energy to be generated by these [sic] sources in the state. Despite several attempts to challenge these RPS laws, ALEC and its allies, such as Americans for Prosperity and the Heartland Institute, have not succeeded. [...] RPS repeal bills have also failed to advance in Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and New Hampshire.” [EcoWatch.com, [6/12/15](#)]

ALEC Pushed Legislation To Roll Back Renewable Fuel Standards In Colorado. According to the Boulder Weekly, “The state bill that would have rolled back Colorado’s renewable energy standards to half of their proposed levels was co-sponsored by legislators who have been linked to the fossil fuel-funded American Legislative Exchange Council.” [Boulder Weekly, [3/12/15](#)]

- **The Bill Died In Committee In The House.** According to the Boulder Weekly, “That bill, Senate Bill 15-044, proposed to reduce the state’s renewable energy standard as required by the public utilities commission, set at 20 percent from 2015 to 2019 and 30 percent from 2020 and after for investor-owned utilities and 20 percent for cooperative electric associations, to 15 percent indefinitely. It passed the senate on Feb. 5 and died in House committee.” [Boulder Weekly, [3/12/15](#)]
- **Colorado State Senate President Bill Cadman, Who Co-Sponsored The Bill, Was One Of ALEC’s Colorado State Chairs.** According to the Boulder Weekly, “The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) describes itself as ‘the nation’s largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators. The organization advances limited government, free markets and federalism,’ in a letter to Google Chairman Eric Schmidt written in response to his comments on the company’s choice in September to part ways with the organization. [...] That letter was signed by Colorado Senators Jerry Sonnenberg (R-Sterling), Kent Lambert (R-Colorado Springs) and Bill Cadman (R-Colorado Springs), who co-sponsored the bill to reduce Colorado’s renewable energy standards. Cadman is one of Colorado’s state chairs for the organization. He’s also the Colorado Senate president.” [Boulder Weekly, [3/12/15](#)]

Energy And Policy Institute Executive Director Gabe Elsner: “ALEC Members Are Trying To At Least Roll Back The Renewable Energy Standard As Much As They Can.” According to the Boulder Weekly, “‘What we saw in response is that ALEC actually adopted additional model legislation, so there were two additional bills adopted in late 2013 that would basically water down [renewable portfolio standards] by including existing hydro sources,’ says Gabe Elsner with the Energy and Policy Institute. ‘ALEC members understand that politics in their states differ, but what they do have in common is that they’ve sat in a room with a bunch of fossil fuel interests that want to see these [renewable portfolio standards] policies repealed.’ [...] ‘In Colorado specifically, I think trying to repeal the renewable portfolio standard would be dead on arrival, and so these ALEC members are trying to at least roll back the renewable energy standard as much as they can,’ Elsner says.” [Boulder Weekly, [3/12/15](#)]

- **Elsner: “As Long As There Are ALEC Members In Colorado, They’ll Continue To Push” ALEC’s Agenda.** According to the Boulder Weekly, “The nationwide campaign against renewable energy standards is expected to continue. ‘I imagine that as long as there are ALEC members in Colorado, they’ll continue to push the priority agenda that ALEC has,’ Elsner says. ‘And right now, a lot of ALEC’s energy members have an interest in weakening clean energy policies.’” [Boulder Weekly, [3/12/15](#)]

FRACKING

Colorado Passed A Fracking Chemical Disclosure Bill Based On ALEC Model Legislation. According to the Huffington Post, “Bowen Heath, who represents Halliburton, Koch Industries, and various other oil and gas interests for the lobbying firm McGuireWoods, had unparalleled access to the [North Carolina Mining & Energy] Commission. Emails reveal a chummy relationship between [Mining & Energy Commissioner] George Howard and Heath, who spent evenings together and went for beers in the afternoons. Heath used that access to advocate for a fracking chemical disclosure system that allows

generous exemptions for chemicals that companies deem ‘trade secrets.’ Heath provided a fracking chemical disclosure bill to Howard that the shale industry and its political allies previously passed in Colorado. The Colorado bill was based on a model bill from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a corporate-funded group dedicated to passing legislation approved by ALEC's corporate funders.” [Huffington Post, [7/19/14](#)]

- **The Fracking Chemical Disclosure Bill Allowed Generous Exemptions For “Chemicals That Companies Deem ‘Trade Secrets’.”** According to the Huffington Post, “Heath used that access to advocate for a fracking chemical disclosure system that allows generous exemptions for chemicals that companies deem ‘trade secrets.’ Heath provided a fracking chemical disclosure bill to Howard that the shale industry and its political allies previously passed in Colorado. The Colorado bill was based on a model bill from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a corporate-funded group dedicated to passing legislation approved by ALEC's corporate funders.” [Huffington Post, [7/19/14](#)]

ALEC Pushed State-Level “Pre-Emption Laws” To Prohibit Local And Municipal Fracking Bans In Colorado.

According to Al Jazeera America, “State-level pre-emption laws like HB 40 that limit the authority of city and county governments in their dealings with private industry, while not new, have become more common in recent years. Colorado and Oklahoma also have laws abrogating local fracking bans. [...] Critics of these pre-emption laws say their rise can be traced to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), an influential pro-business policy organization that pairs industry representatives with state lawmakers to write model legislation for adoption by states across the country.” [Al Jazeera America, [6/18/15](#)]

- **ALEC Launched The American City County Exchange (ACCE) To Operate On The Local Level.** According to Al Jazeera America, “Looking to expand beyond its longtime role at the state government level, in 2014 ALEC launched the American City County Exchange (ACCE), which seeks to promote its pro-business legislation at the local level. The plan follows a familiar script: bring industry lobbyists and legislators together to create model legislation that lawmakers in cities and counties across the country can use as their own. The irony is that while ALEC is pushing for state control over local governments, ACCE legislation seeks to assert local control when state laws are not deemed favorable.” [Al Jazeera America, [6/18/15](#)]

DRILLING FOR OIL

Utah State Senate Majority Leader Curtis Bramble Testified As A Member Of ALEC Before A U.S. House Of Representatives Subcommittee In Favor Of Drilling For Oil In Shale And Tar Sands In Colorado. According to the testimony of Utah state senate majority leader Curtis Bramble before the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, “SEN. BRAMBLE: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, for allowing me to share Utah's perspective on the Energy Policy Act of 2005. I am testifying as the Utah Senate majority leader, but also as a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council, known as ALEC. They have more than 2400 legislative members from all 50 states, and over 90 members of Congress are members of ALEC. [...] America has tremendous resources in the Green River formation of Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. It's estimated that over 2 trillion barrels of oil are locked up in the oil shale and tar sands. That's enough to meet U.S. demands for over 400 years, if we can find a way to develop it.” [Curtis Bramble testimony – House Natural Resources Committee via Federal News Service, 1/11/95]

CLEAN POWER PLAN

ALEC Opposed The EPA’s Clean Power Plan Requirements By Drafting A Model Bill To “Mandate Legislative Approval” Of State Implementation Of The CPP. According to Advanced Energy Economy, “As the release of EPA’s final Clean Power Plan (CPP) approaches, utilities, regulators, and state officials across the country are weighing compliance options. After the final rule is released mid-summer, and after a lot more analysis and deliberation, states will craft implementation plans (SIPs) tailored to their particular circumstances. In some states, however, legislators have introduced bills aiming to slow or block their state’s compliance with the CPP. [...] The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) developed a model bill that has cropped up in several closely related iterations in different states. These bills would mandate legislative approval of a SIP before it could be submitted to EPA.” [AEE.net, [3/30/15](#)]

- **Colorado’s ALEC-Drafted CPP Legislation Was “Postponed Indefinitely” In Committee.** According to Advanced Energy Economy, “Some ALEC bills introduced in 2015 have already been defeated altogether, including

Montana's Senate Bill 236, Virginia's Senate Bill 1365, and Colorado's Senate Bill 92, which was 'postponed indefinitely' by committee." [AEE.net, [3/30/15](#)]

- **ALEC Member, Colorado Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg, Wrote To The Journal-Advocate Of The “Adverse Consequences The Proposed EPA Clean Power Plan Will Have On States’ Power Production.”** According to an ALEC weekly email update, “ALEC member, Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg, CO (HD-65), writes to the Journal-Advocate of the adverse consequences the proposed EPA Clean Power Plan will have on states’ power production and economies, including jobs and family budgets.” [ALEC.org, [10/2/14](#)]

SOLAR ENERGY

ALEC-Affiliated Company Xcel Energy Asked The Colorado Public Utilities Commission To Reduce Credits To Customers Who Use Solar Energy. According to the Denver Post, “The solar-energy industry and Xcel Energy painted sharply different pictures of the value and cost of rooftop solar at a Colorado Public Utilities workshop Wednesday. [...] Xcel, Colorado's largest electricity supplier, calculated the benefits of distributed solar generation, on homes, business and solar gardens at about 8 cents a kilowatt-hour. Under the net metering program, Xcel pays residential customers with solar panels 10.5 cents for each kilowatt they put on the grid. Xcel is seeking reduce the payment.” [Denver Post, [10/1/14](#)]

- **Xcel Energy Was A Member Of ALEC But Stopped Paying Dues In 2010.** According PR Watch, “A spokesperson for Xcel Energy -- a \$10.1 billion a year public company based in Minnesota -- said that the company hasn't been a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) since 2011 in response to a recent letter to the Boulder Weekly criticizing Xcel's efforts to reduce homeowner solar ‘net metering’ credits as a hindrance to transitioning to renewable energy sources. The spokesperson attempted to distance the company from ALEC, complaining, ‘if you've been affiliated once, then they'll brand you for life.’ Xcel Energy was listed as a state co-chair in ALEC documents from the summer of 2011, but Xcel told Boulder Weekly that it last paid dues in 2010. It is not clear when Xcel actually stopped aiding ALEC.” [PR Watch, [1/13/14](#)]
- **ALEC Legislative Analyst John Eick: Net Metering “Is An Issue We Are Going To Be Exploring.”** According to the Guardian, “Further details of Alec's strategy were provided by John Eick, the legislative analyst for Alec's energy, environment and agriculture program. Eick told the Guardian the group would be looking closely in the coming year at how individual homeowners with solar panels are compensated for feeding surplus electricity back into the grid. ‘This is an issue we are going to be exploring,’ Eick said. He said Alec wanted to lower the rate electricity companies pay homeowners for direct power generation – and maybe even charge homeowners for feeding power into the grid. ‘As it stands now, those direct generation customers are essentially freeriders on the system. They are not paying for the infrastructure they are using. In effect, all the other non direct generation customers are being penalised,’ he said.” [Guardian, [12/4/13](#)]

Right To Work

CMD: “An Alec-Modeled” Right To Work Bill “Died In Committee In The Colorado House.” According to the Center for Media and Democracy's PR Watch, “An ALEC-modeled RTW bill died in committee in the Colorado House on Feb. 4.” [Center for Media and Democracy's PR Watch, [3/11/15](#)]

Education

ALEC Supported Colorado's First School Voucher Program. According to an ALEC press release, “The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) today applauds the leadership of Colorado Governor Bill Owens and the state legislature in establishing the first state school voucher program. ‘This is a historic time for the children of Colorado,’ said Duane Parde, ALEC's executive director. ‘Colorado's program will enable thousands of needy children a chance for a better education.’” [ALEC press release via PR Newswire, 4/17/03]

Taxpayer Bill Of Rights

Jonathan Williams, Vice President Of The Center For State Fiscal Reform At ALEC: “Colorado Is The Gold Standard” For TABOR Laws. According to a speech Jonathan Williams gave at a Cato Institute Spending Restraint Panel, “I’m going to be talking about the gold standard, I think, of state fiscal restraint, which is Colorado’s Taxpayer Bill of Rights. [...] We believe that there needs to be sustainable rules that will really go throughout the political cycles to protect taxpayers, and Colorado’s is the gold standard when it comes to protecting taxpayers.” [Jonathan Williams speech – Cato Institute Spending Restraint Panel via YouTube, [5/28/15](#)]

Legal Consumer’s Bill Of Rights

Colorado Considered A “Legal Consumer’s Bill Of Rights” Based On ALEC Model Legislation. According to an ALEC press release, “The Colorado House of Representatives tomorrow will hear testimony on the Colorado Legal Consumer's Bill of Rights Act (H.B. 04-1081). The proposed legislation, to be introduced by Representative Al White (R-Dist. 57), will provide fundamental rights to protect those who need the help of a contingency fee lawyer. [...] The Colorado Legal Consumer's Bill of Rights Act is based upon model legislation prepared by the ALEC, the nation's largest bipartisan, individual membership group of state legislators.” [ALEC press release via PR Newswire, 2/18/04]

- **The Legal Consumer’s Bill Of Rights Was Killed On A Standing Vote In The House.** According to the Rocky Mountain News, “After lengthy floor debate, [legislators] killed House Bill 1081, the so-called Colorado Legal Consumer's Bill of Rights Act, on a standing vote.” [Rocky Mountain News, [2/27/04](#)]

THE KOCH AGENDA IN COLORADO: CITIZENS FOR A SOUND ECONOMY, CONCERNED VETERANS FOR AMERICA, LIBRE INITIATIVE, NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK COMMITTEE, AMERICAN ENERGY ALLIANCE, AND THE STATE POLICY NETWORK

Citizens For A Sound Economy

CSE WAS CONNECTED TO THE KOCHS

CSE Was Created In 1984 By David Koch And Richard Fink. According to the New Yorker, “In 1984, David Koch and Richard Fink created yet another organization, and [President of FreedomWorks Matt] Kibbe joined them. The group, Citizens for a Sound Economy, seemed like a grassroots movement, but according to the Center for Public Integrity it was sponsored principally by the Kochs, who provided \$7.9 million between 1986 and 1993.” [NewYorker.com, [8/30/10](#)]

CSE Was “Principally” Sponsored By The Kochs, Who Gave \$7.9 Million To The Group Between 1986 And 1993. According to the New Yorker, “The group, Citizens for a Sound Economy, seemed like a grassroots movement, but according to the Center for Public Integrity it was sponsored principally by the Kochs, who provided \$7.9 million between 1986 and 1993.” [NewYorker.com, [8/30/10](#)]

Americans For Prosperity Is A “Spin-Off” Of Citizens For A Sound Economy. According to the Center for Public Integrity, “Americans for Prosperity believes in ‘cutting taxes and government spending in order to halt the encroachment of government in the economic lives of citizens’ and ‘removing unnecessary barriers to entrepreneurship and opportunity by sparking citizen involvement in the regulatory process,’ according to its website. [...] The group is a spin-off of Citizens for a Sound Economy, which the Koch brothers founded in 1984.” [PublicIntegrity.org, [8/8/12](#)]

CSE ADVOCATED THE SELLING OF PUBLIC LANDS TO PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Denver Post’s Mark Obmascik: CSE Proposed Selling 14.4 Million Acres Of National Forest In Colorado To Private Landowners. According to an opinion piece by Denver Post writer Mark Obmascik for the Denver Post, “To decide the best

ways to cut spending, the GOP asked four and only four outside groups for advice. The list of hearing invitees - the Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute, Citizens for a Sound Economy and Citizens Against Government Waste - represents a Who's Who of conservative thought. Here's what they advocated: Sell all 119 national forests, including 14.4 million acres in Colorado, to private landowners. (Citizens for a Sound Economy)" [Mark Obmascik – Denver Post, 1/14/95]

CSE Vice President Nancy Mitchell: "The Forest Service Should Be Privatized." According to the testimony of CSE Vice President Nancy Mitchell prepared for the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, "What ever happened to common sense? The Forest Service should be privatized. Again, the sale receipts of some 119 major forests are likely to make balancing the federal budget a lot easier." [Nancy Mitchell testimony – House Appropriations Committee via Federal News Service, 1/11/95]

CSE Chief Economist Wayne Brough: "Much Of The Confusion" Over Public Land Management "Could Be Addressed Through Private Ownership." According to a web post by CSE chief economist Wayne Brough, "Public land management policies have always been controversial, as the government is required to balance various uses of the land, from recreation to industrial uses such as logging and mining. And it must be remembered that federal policies also have a significant impact on privately owned lands. While much of the confusion could be addressed through private ownership, it is unlikely that the government will abandon its role as the largest landlord anytime soon." [Wayne Brough – CSE.org, [12/11/02](#)]

CSE TRIED TO DEFEAT REFERENDUM C

Citizens For A Sound Economy Wisconsin State Director Spent Time Working In Colorado To Try To Defeat Referendum C, Which Would Have "Lifted TABOR Spending Limits For Five Years." According to the Heartland Institute newsletter Budget & Tax News, "Cameron Sholty, Wisconsin state director of Citizens for a Sound Economy, spent time in Colorado unsuccessfully working for the defeat of Referendum C, which allowed the state to keep nearly \$4 billion of tax refunds and lifted TABOR spending limits for five years." [Heartland Institute newsletter, [1/06](#)]

CSE SUPPORTED A LAW THAT CREATED COLORADO'S FIRST SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM

CSE Supported A Law That Created Colorado's First School Voucher Program And Said It Would "Liberate" Students From Underperforming Schools. According to a Citizens for a Sound Economy press release, "Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE) and its 280,000 members nationwide cheered yesterday as Colorado Gov. Bill Owens signed House Bill 1160 into law. The new law creates Colorado's first school voucher program and will begin the process of liberating thousands of students from underachieving schools." [CSE press release, 4/17/03]

- **CSE Co-Chairman And Former House Majority Leader Dick Armey: School Vouchers Will Break The "Public-School Monopoly."** According to a Citizens for a Sound Economy press release, "CSE co-Chairman and former House Majority Leader Dick Armey, a leading supporter of school choice, said in a statement: 'The new Colorado plan will help thousands of the most vulnerable students reach their full potential. It gives parents and their children a real freedom of choice and will force public schools to compete. That's a good thing. This is the first step in a student-first approach to education that breaks the public-school monopoly. Every student in Colorado -- indeed, every student nationwide -- deserves the same opportunity to choose the school they attend.'" [CSE press release, 4/17/03]

GOV. BILL OWENS RECEIVED A \$10,000 SPEAKING FEE FROM CSE

Republican Governor Bill Owens Received A \$10,000 Speaking Fee From Citizens For A Sound Economy In October 2001. According to the Denver Post, "In October, [Governor Bill] Owens spoke at Washington, D.C.-based Citizens for a Sound Economy, receiving \$ 10,000. One of the group's directors and the chairman of its foundation is Koch Industries executive vice president David Koch." [Denver Post, 3/11/02]

Concerned Veterans For America

NEARLY 400,000 VETERANS CALL COLORADO HOME

U.S. Census Bureau: Nearly 400,000 Veterans Lived In Colorado Between 2009 And 2013. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's website, 399,458 veterans lived in Colorado between 2009 and 2013. [QuickFacts.Census.gov, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

CONCERNED VETERANS FOR AMERICA CEO: THE KOCH NETWORK “LITERALLY CREATED” CVA

CVA CEO Pete Hegseth Told Koch Donor Retreat Attendees That The Koch Network “Literally Created” CVA. According to The Nation, “Though the group doesn’t disclose its donors, it has for a long while been clear the group is funded in part, or perhaps even in full, by the Koch brothers. Any remaining doubt can now be erased thanks to audio from the secretive Koch donor retreat this summer, obtained by The Undercurrent and reported here. [Concerned Veterans for America CEO Pete] Hegseth addressed the crowd and not only confirmed that the Koch network ‘literally created’ CVA but explained giddily ‘the central role that Concerned Veterans for America played in exposing and driving this crisis from the very beginning.’” [The Nation, [9/23/14](#)]

IN 2015, CVA ANNOUNCED IT WOULD EXPAND ITS PRESENCE IN COLORADO

CVA Legislative Director Dan Caldwell Said CVA Planned To Expand In Colorado, Among Three Other States, In 2015. According to Politico, “Dan Caldwell, legislative and political director for Concerned Veterans for America, explained Tuesday that his group — which is planning to expand this year into Iowa, South Carolina, Colorado and Pennsylvania — wouldn’t rule out primary engagement.” [Politico, [1/28/15](#)]

CVA CEO Pete Hegseth: “We Look Forward To Expanding Our Efforts In Colorado.” According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “We are pleased to welcome Frank Crocker as the Colorado State Director for Concerned Veterans for America,” said Pete Hegseth, CEO of CVA. “We’re grateful to have him on board, and we look forward to expanding our efforts in Colorado.” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [5/13/15](#)]

CVA Scheduled A Stop In Denver On Their 2015 “Defend Freedom Tour”

CVA Scheduled A Stop In Denver On Their 2015 “Defend Freedom Tour.” According to the Defend Freedom Tour website, Concerned Veterans for America was scheduled to stop in Denver, Colorado on August 22, 2015. [DefendFreedomTour.com, accessed [6/24/15](#)]

- **The “Defend Freedom Tour” Was “A Movement Of Veterans, Military Family Members, And Patriotic Citizens That Will Fight For A Free And Prosperous America.”** According to the Defend Freedom Tour website, “Concerned Veterans for America —through the #DefendFreedom Tour—is building a movement of veterans, military family members, and patriotic citizens that will fight for a free and prosperous America. [...] Each event experience is family friendly and FREE to attend, featuring musical performances, exciting speakers, a taste of local fare. A re-vamped Concerned Veterans for America “Action Center” will also be on tour, providing specific ways attendees can organize and advocate for a strong America, improve the lives of veterans, and hold status-quo politicians — of all stripes — accountable.” [DefendFreedomTour.com, accessed [6/24/15](#)]

CVA PROPOSED PRIVATIZATION OF THE VA AT A COLORADO HOSPITAL

CVA Proposed Privatization Of The VA At A Colorado Hospital. According to the Denver Post, “A national veterans group is calling for radical reforms within the Department of Veterans Affairs including a gradual transfer of medical care from the Veterans Health Administration to private doctors. The group, Concerned Veterans for America, brought its 100 page proposal, Fixing Veterans Health Care, along with a former Democratic congressman and an incumbent Republican to a meeting Friday at the University of Colorado Hospital campus in Aurora.” [Denver Post, 4/18/15]

- **Denver Post Headline: “Private Docs For Vets Proposed.”** [Denver Post, 4/18/15]

CVA CEO Pete Hegseth: Secretary McDonald Might Claim Congress Is “Punishing” Colorado Veterans But It’s Only The VA That Is “Punishing” Them. According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America , “In response to hyperbolic declarations from VA Secretary Robert McDonald that accused Congress of ‘punishing’ Colorado veterans by refusing his demands for yet another blank check to fund construction of the notorious Aurora VA hospital, Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) CEO Pete Hegseth issued the following statement: ‘Despite Secretary McDonald’s accusations, there is only one institution “punishing” Colorado’s 400,000 veterans and that is the agency he leads. The VA has continually misled Colorado veterans, the media, and Congress about the troubled Aurora VA hospital project.’” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [5/21/15](#)]

Hegseth: McDonald’s “Hyperbolic” Requests For “Another Blank Check To Fund The Aurora VA Hospital,” Were “Scare Tactics” To Get Taxpayer Money. According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America , “In response to hyperbolic declarations from VA Secretary Robert McDonald that accused Congress of ‘punishing’ Colorado veterans by refusing his demands for yet another blank check to fund construction of the notorious Aurora VA hospital, Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) CEO Pete Hegseth issued the following statement: [...] ‘CVA applauds Congress – and more specifically Speaker Boehner, House VA Chairman Miller, and Senate VA Chairman Isakson – for not giving into the VA’s scare tactics and urges them to continue to ensure VA accountability through the appropriations process. Considering the recent revelation that the VA was improperly spending over \$6 billion annually, it is clear that the VA is about as good at properly spending taxpayer money as they are at building hospitals. It is therefore essential that Congress not allocate one more dime to the Aurora VA project without increased accountability and assurances from Secretary McDonald that reforms will be undertaken to ensure that the gross mismanagement that led to the Aurora VA debacle is not repeated.’” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [5/21/15](#)]

Hegseth: “Secretary Robert McDonald Has Attempted To Shift Blame For The Problems At The Aurora VA Onto Congress While Demanding More Money For The Failed Project.” According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “In response to hyperbolic declarations from VA Secretary Robert McDonald that accused Congress of ‘punishing’ Colorado veterans by refusing his demands for yet another blank check to fund construction of the notorious Aurora VA hospital, Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) CEO Pete Hegseth issued the following statement: ‘Despite Secretary McDonald’s accusations, there is only one institution ‘punishing’ Colorado’s 400,000 veterans and that is the agency he leads. The VA has continually misled Colorado veterans, the media, and Congress about the troubled Aurora VA hospital project. Not only that, but the VA has failed to propose any proactive reforms to VA construction programs across the country – many of which are massively over-budget like the Aurora VA – nor has anyone been held accountable for these failures. Instead, Secretary Robert McDonald has attempted to shift blame for the problems at the Aurora VA onto Congress while demanding more money for the failed project. Even worse, the VA is cynically attempting to use massively over-budget projects like the Aurora VA as reason to raid funds specifically appropriated by Congress last year for the Veteran Choice Card, which was intended to give eligible veterans expanded access to non-VA care.’” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [5/21/15](#)]

Hegseth: “The VA Is Cynically Attempting To Use Massively Over-Budget Projects Like The Aurora VA As Reason To Raid Funds Specifically Appropriated By Congress” For Non-VA Care According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “In response to hyperbolic declarations from VA Secretary Robert McDonald that accused Congress of ‘punishing’ Colorado veterans by refusing his demands for yet another blank check to fund construction of the notorious Aurora VA hospital, Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) CEO Pete Hegseth issued the following statement: [...] ‘Instead, Secretary Robert McDonald has attempted to shift blame for the problems at the Aurora VA onto Congress while demanding more money for the failed project. Even worse, the VA is cynically attempting to use massively over-budget projects like the Aurora VA as reason to raid funds specifically appropriated by Congress last year for the Veteran Choice Card, which was intended to give eligible veterans expanded access to non-VA care.’” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [5/21/15](#)]

Hegseth: CVA “Applauds Congress” And Speaker John Boehner For “Not Giving Into The VA’s Scare Tactics” On The Aurora VA. According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) CEO Pete Hegseth issued the following statement: [...] ‘CVA applauds Congress – and more specifically Speaker Boehner, House VA Chairman Miller, and Senate VA Chairman Isakson – for not giving into the VA’s scare tactics and urges them to continue to ensure VA accountability through the appropriations process. Considering the recent revelation that the VA was improperly spending over \$6 billion annually, it is clear that the VA is about as good at properly spending taxpayer money as they are at building hospitals. It is therefore essential that Congress not allocate one more dime to the Aurora VA project without increased accountability and assurances from Secretary McDonald that reforms will be undertaken to ensure

that the gross mismanagement that led to the Aurora VA debacle is not repeated.” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [5/21/15](#)]

COLORADO LEADERSHIP

CVA Announced Frank Crocker As Its Colorado State Director. According to a press release from Concerned Veterans for America, “Concerned Veterans for America today announced Frank Crocker as its Colorado State Director. Frank served actively in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2011-2015 and currently serves in the Marine Corps Reserve. Prior to joining CVA, Frank was located in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he was the Executive Officer of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines. He has completed deployments to the Philippines, South Korea, and Okinawa.” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [5/13/15](#)]

LIBRE Initiative

LIBRE INITIATIVE IS A CONSERVATIVE HISPANIC OUTREACH GROUP LINKED TO THE KOCH BROTHERS

VOXXI: “Some Latino Leaders Worry That The Koch Brothers Are Using The LIBRE Initiative To Push Their Own Agenda.” According to VOXXI, “Some Latino leaders worry that the Koch brothers are using the LIBRE Initiative to push their own agenda, which includes eliminating the federal minimum wage, abolishing Medicaid programs and fighting clean energy legislation.” [VOXXI, [9/26/14](#)]

Head Of The Latino Victory Project, Cristobal Alex: LIBRE Is “Just Another Koch Brothers Front Group,” That Describes Itself As Bipartisan While Standing With Conservatives. According to VOXXI, “Cristobal Alex, head of the Latino Victory Project, has been a longtime critic of the LIBRE Initiative. In an interview with VOXXI, Alex said he views the LIBRE Initiative as ‘just another Koch brothers front group.’ To make his case, he noted that the group describes itself as being bipartisan when in reality it stands in line with conservatives on a number of issues, such as opposing the Affordable Care Act.” [VOXXI, [9/26/14](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Received \$3.3 Million From Freedom Partners In 2013. According to the Huffington Post, “The Koch-backed Latino outreach group Libre Initiative, which has already spent \$2.1 million attacking 2014 candidates, received \$3.3 million from Freedom Partners.” [Huffington Post, [9/18/14](#)]

TWENTY-ONE PERCENT OF COLORADOANS ARE HISPANIC OR LATINO

U.S. Census Bureau: 21% of Colorado Residents Were Hispanic Or Latino In 2013. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s website, 21% of were Hispanic or Latino in 2013. [QuickFacts.Census.gov, accessed [7/9/15](#)]

Pew Research Center: “The Hispanic Population In Colorado Is The Eighth Largest In The Nation.” According to a web post from the Pew Research Center, “The Hispanic population in Colorado is the eighth largest in the nation. About 1.1 million Hispanics reside in Colorado, 2.1% of all Hispanics in the United States.” [PewHispanic.org, [10/16/14](#)]

LIBRE Opened Field Offices In States With “Large Hispanic Populations,” Including Colorado

LIBRE Opened Field Offices “In As Many As A Dozen States With Large Hispanic Populations.” According to Yahoo News, “A group of Hispanic conservatives is ramping up an aggressive campaign to attract Hispanic voters as part of an ongoing effort on the right to bring more minorities into the fold. This push by the LIBRE Initiative includes a seven-figure ad buy against Democratic lawmakers who supported the Affordable Care Act, often called Obamacare, and the opening of field offices in as many as a dozen states with large Hispanic populations. And in a novel move, the group is even providing social services to Hispanic communities while it sells its message.” [Yahoo News, [1/17/14](#)]

The LIBRE Initiative Colorado Field Director Is Ivette Diaz, Who Formerly Worked For Focus On The Family. According to Ivette Diaz’s staff biography on the LIBRE Initiative website, “Ivette Díaz is the Colorado Field Director for The LIBRE Initiative where she manages statewide outreach strategy and grassroots efforts that advance the principles of

economic freedom to empower the U.S. Hispanic community. Prior to joining LIBRE, Diaz served as the Associate Director for Constituent Relations at Focus on the Family's Focus Leadership Institute." [TheLibreInitiative.com, accessed [6/25/15](#)]

Latino Decisions/NCLRAF Poll: 60 Percent Of Latino Voters In Colorado "Think The Republican Party Takes Latino Voters For Granted Or Does Not Care About Them"

Latino Decisions/NCLRAF Poll: 60 Percent Of Latino Voters In Colorado Thought "The Republican Party Takes Latino Voters For Granted Or Does Not Care About Them" In 2014. According to a blog post from the Latino Decisions' blog, "Yesterday the [sic] The National Council of La Raza Action Fund (NCLRAF) and Latino Decisions released a new poll of Latino voters in Colorado that finds incumbent Democratic Senator Mark Udall holds a substantial lead over his Republican challenger Cory Gardner. [...] It comes as no surprise that 60 percent think the Republican party takes Latino voters for granted or does not care about them. Another seventeen percent view the GOP as being hostile towards Latinos altogether." [LatinoDecisions.com/blog, [10/15/14](#)]

GOP Pollster: Republican Presidential Nominee Is Going To Need At Least 40% Of Latinos Votes To Win The White House In 2016

GOP Pollster: Republican Presidential Nominee Is Going To Need At Least 40% Of Latinos Votes To Win White House. According to Fox News Latino, "Do a lot more and do it faster. That's the strategy that one Republican pollster working with potential presidential candidate and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said the GOP needs to do if it wants to win the crucial Latino vote in 2016. 'A Republican nominee is going to need to be somewhere in the mid-40s, or better, among Hispanic voters,' pollster Whit Ayres said at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast, adding that Rubio is 'extraordinarily talented' and could be 'transformational' in expanding the GOP's appeal with Latinos." [Latino.FoxNews.com, [4/1/15](#)]

LIBRE ENGAGED HISPANICS IN COLORADO ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

LIBRE Initiative Has Attacked The Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program And The Deferred Action For Parental Accountability (DAPA) Program

LIBRE Initiative Executive Director Daniel Garza Said "The Problem With" The Deferred Action For Parental Accountability (DAPA) Program "Is That It Doesn't Honor Our System Of A Republic." According to Latin Post, "The Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program, which was announced by Obama in November 2014 but not yet implemented, also has its concerns from the organization. 'The problem with [DAPA] is that it doesn't honor our system of a republic,' said Garza. 'We elected our congressmen and our senators, and, as a president, you have to execute the law based on the consent and will of and approvals of Congress, and when you don't do that, you circumvent the process and put us in a position we're at now where a court may rescind or eliminate DACA or DAPA and then expose all these folks that signed on in good faith.'" [Latin Post, [4/28/15](#)]

LIBRE Initiative National Spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy: DACA "Ruined" Immigration Reform Progress In Congress And "Scared Everybody" Because There Were "A Lot Of Unintended Consequences" To It. According to the transcript of an interview with LIBRE Initiative national spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy on the *Malzberg Show* on NewsMax.com, "Everybody sort of agreed that the children were the innocent victims in this whole situation and there was a lot of consensus among the most powerful members of the House, Cantor and Boehner and Paul Ryan that in the very least, we could come up with a solution for the dreamers. And as soon as that started to ferment and come into fruition, it started to look like it was going to happen, what does the president do? He did DACA. He used an executive order, and again, it created this chaos. It was what started the whole influx of children from Central America over into the border and what did that do? That, again, right when the House was ready to deal with the idea of a big immigration reform bill, it ruined everything. It scared everybody. And they were like, wait a minute. There's a lot of unintended consequences to DACA and it created a, really, a stop there." [NewsMax – *Malzberg Show*, [2014](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Spokesman On Local Colorado Show: "There's Still A Lot Of Hispanics That Don't Necessarily Want Everyone To Come Legal Right Away" To U.S.

LIBRE Initiative's Michael Barrera On Immigration: "There's Still A Lot Of Hispanics That Don't Necessarily Want Everyone To Come Legal Right Away 'Cause A Lot Of Folks, A Lot Of Hispanics Are Waiting To Come Here

Illegally.” According to an interview with LIBRE Initiative’s Michael Barrera on the *Devil’s Advocate with Jon Caldara*, “JON CALDARA: Talk to me a little bit about immigration. What do most Hispanic voters feel about immigration? I know it’s not fair to put all of them in one box, but let’s do a stereotype here and just say, if you’re here in America, do you want immigration to be strong, do you want to make sure we have a tough immigration state that, that you have to, if you’re here illegally, that you won’t be here for long. That they’re, you’re not going to get citizenship if you’re not here legally. Or do most Hispanic voters really care about this and they want something that’s more of an open border? MICHAEL BARRERA: And that’s a great question, great question— CALDARA: Because I don’t think we know— BARRERA: You know, that’s a great question and again, I think we’re starting to see people tend to want to put everybody into the same plot. There’s still a lot of Hispanics that don’t necessarily want everyone to come legal right away ‘cause a lot of folks, a lot of Hispanics are waiting to come here illegally.” [*Devil’s Advocate with Jon Caldara*, [4/18/13](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Poll Found That 8 Percent Of Hispanics Cited Immigration Reform As Their Top Priority In 2014, Which Was 15 Points Lower Than Latino Decisions’ Poll

LIBRE Initiative Poll: 8 Percent Of Hispanics In Colorado Cited Immigration Reform As Their Top Priority In 2014. According to the National Review, “Immigration policy isn’t one of the top priorities for Hispanic voters, according to a new results of a poll in three key congressional races. The findings, from a survey conducted by the conservative LIBRE Initiative, come as President Obama is expected to announce his administration will grant legal status to millions of immigrants in the country illegally. [...] For instance, in Colorado, where Gardner and Udall both won 48 percent of the Hispanic vote, 22 percent of Hispanics put the economy at the top of the list, followed by abortion at 10 percent, and health care at 9 percent. Immigration came in at 8 percent.” [National Review, [11/20/14](#)]

- **Latino Decisions/NCLRAF Poll: 23 Percent Of Colorado Hispanics Cited “Immigration Reform As Their Top Priority” In 2014.** According to a blog post from Latino Decisions’ blog, “Yesterday the [*sic*] The National Council of La Raza Action Fund (NCLRAF) and Latino Decisions released a new poll of Latino voters in Colorado that finds incumbent Democratic Senator Mark Udall holds a substantial lead over his Republican challenger Cory Gardner. [...] Economic concerns are priority issues for Latino voters this election cycle. Creating more jobs and fixing the economy were tied, with 24 percent of Latino voters in Colorado indicating these issues would be most important in drawing them to the polls on Election Day. Immigration remains similarly important with 23 percent of respondents citing immigration reform as their top priority.” [LatinoDecisions.com/blog, [10/15/14](#)]
- **Harper Polling: 80 Percent Of All Colorado Voters Said It Was “Either ‘Very’ Or ‘Somewhat Important’ For Congress To Act On Immigration Reform” In 2014.** According to the Denver Business Journal, “In a survey of 582 likely Colorado voters by Harper Polling Inc., 89 percent of state respondents say the immigration system is ‘in need of fixing,’ and two-thirds favor some sort of legal status for undocumented immigrants now in the country illegally. According to the survey, 80 percent of Colorado voters say it’s either ‘very’ or ‘somewhat important’ for Congress to act on immigration reform this year, and 75 percent said they would rather vote for a presidential candidate in 2016 from a party that supports immigration reform instead of a candidate from a party that opposes it.” [Denver Business Journal, [7/9/14](#)]

LIBRE Held A Seminar On The 2013 Senate Immigration Reform Bill

LIBRE Announced It Was Hosting A Seminar On The 2013 Senate Immigration Reform Bill At A Church In Colorado To Discuss Its “Impact The Hispanic Community.” According to a web post from The LIBRE Initiative, “LIBRE will be hosting a seminar on the Senate immigration reform bill at Iglesia del Nazareno. We will have a Keynote speaker discussing the various components of the bill and how it will impact the Hispanic community. Attendees are welcome to come and ask questions to the speaker. We will be providing food and refreshments for those in attendance.” [TheLibreInitiative.com/event, [7/28/13](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Volunteers Ran A Phone Bank In Colorado To “Campaign For Immigration Reform”

LIBRE Initiative Volunteers Ran A Phone Bank In Colorado To “Campaign For Immigration Reform.” According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “The LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE), a non-partisan and non-profit national grassroots organization that works to advance the principles of economic freedom in the U.S. Hispanic community, held phone banks this past Saturday, August 24th, to promote LIBRE’s ESTAMOS CONTIGO campaign for Immigration reform. Volunteers in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, and Virginia placed thousands of calls to urge respondents to visit the

ESTAMOS CONTIGO interactive page and send an electronic letter to their Representative and Senators to support reforming our broken Immigration system this year.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release via Targeted News Service, 8/27/13]

- **ESTAMOS CONTIGO Was A LIBRE Project In Support Of “Immigration Reform That Will Lead To A More Prosperous United States.”** According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “ESTAMOS CONTIGO supports the immigrants, job creators, community leaders and all who stand for Immigration reform that will lead to a more prosperous United States.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release via Targeted News Service, 8/27/13]

LIBRE OFFERED LATINOS TAX PREPARATION HELP, SCHOLARSHIPS, FOOD GIVEAWAYS AND WELLNESS CHECKUPS TO REACH OUT TO COMMUNITY

LIBRE National Spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy: LIBRE “Is The Only Conservative Organization On The Ground, In Hispanic Neighborhoods, Countering The Efforts From The Left”

LIBRE Offered Latinos Tax Preparation Help, Wellness Checkups, Scholarships And Food Giveaways In Colorado. According to The Washington Post, “In addition to driver’s license classes, LIBRE has started offering Latinos tax preparation help, wellness checkups, scholarships and food giveaways in Texas, Colorado, Florida and other states. It has bought ads touting the ‘free market,’ smaller government and school choice, and its officials are a growing presence on Spanish-language news stations talking about the virtues of ‘self-reliance.’” [Washington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

By Providing Tax Prep And Driving Classes, LIBRE Is “Building Goodwill In The Latino Community And What They Call A ‘Platform For Civic Engagement.’” According to the Washington Post, “By providing tax prep and driving classes, they are building goodwill in the Latino community and what they call a ‘platform for civic engagement.’ LIBRE officials take pains to say they are advocating policies, not specific candidates. [LIBRE executive director Daniel] Garza said his group is focused on explaining conservative views. For instance, they talk about how a higher minimum wage might not be in the best interest of Latinos, because they believe it will hurt businesses and that there are less expensive ways for young Latinos to get health insurance than Obama’s health plan. Garza also said LIBRE advocates are getting millions of undocumented workers ‘out of the shadows’ and into the legal system.” [Washington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

LIBRE National Spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy: LIBRE “Is The Only Conservative Organization On The Ground, In Hispanic Neighborhoods, Countering The Efforts From The Left.” According to an opinion by LIBRE Initiative national spokesperson Rachel Campos-Duffy for the National Review, “But, despite the best efforts of those peddling racial grievances and ‘free stuff,’ Hispanics remain stubbornly attracted to the ideas of economic liberty, self-reliance, and entrepreneurship. The notion of ‘making it in America’ taps into deep-seated cultural pride for Latinos, who value the dignity that comes from work and earned success. And helping to foster these ideas is The LIBRE Initiative. Founded in 2011, it is the only conservative organization on the ground, in Hispanic neighborhoods, countering the efforts from the left by educating and empowering Hispanics to prosper on their own terms. Hispanics don’t want more programs to make them comfortable in their poverty. What Hispanics really want is more opportunity: the freedom to work, leave poverty behind, and rise into the ranks of the middle class and beyond.” Rachel Campos-Duffy – National Review, [1/8/15](#)]

LIBRE Pushed Economic Freedom Agenda While Engaging Coloradoans In Their Communities

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza: LIBRE Is “Focused On Explaining Conservative Views” Such As How A Higher Minimum Wage Might Be Bad For Latinos. According to the Washington Post, “By providing tax prep and driving classes, they are building goodwill in the Latino community and what they call a ‘platform for civic engagement.’ LIBRE officials take pains to say they are advocating policies, not specific candidates. [LIBRE executive director Daniel] Garza said his group is focused on explaining conservative views. For instance, they talk about how a higher minimum wage might not be in the best interest of Latinos, because they believe it will hurt businesses and that there are less expensive ways for young Latinos to get health insurance than Obama’s health plan. Garza also said LIBRE advocates are getting millions of undocumented workers ‘out of the shadows’ and into the legal system.” [Washington Post, [4/30/15](#)]

LIBRE Initiative Colorado Field Director Job Description: “Develop, Assist, And Implement Special Events That Promote The Organization's Message Of Economic Freedom.” According to The LIBRE Initiative’s job posting for the Colorado Field Director, “Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to promote free-market principles? The Libre Initiative is seeking a Colorado Field Director to develop, implement, and manage a statewide outreach strategy to ensure an effective grassroots operation to support the organization’s vision and mission. The Libre Initiative is a 501(c)4 non-partisan, non-profit

grassroots organization that advances the principles and values of economic freedom to empower the U.S. Hispanic community so it can thrive and contribute to a more prosperous America. Essential Responsibilities: Develop a statewide outreach strategy that enhances and promotes the organization's branding and messaging for its targeted audiences in conjunction with the National Field Director. [...] Develop, assist, and implement special events that promote the organization's message of economic freedom." [TheLIBREInitiative.com/employment-opportunities, accessed [7/13/15](#)]

The LIBRE Initiative Had A Booth At The "Dreamin' On Chrome" Car Show In Henderson, Colorado To Promote Their "Message Of Economic Freedom." According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "The LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE), a national non-profit organization that promotes economic empowerment within the U.S Hispanic community, will participate in the 'Dreamin' on Chrome' car show this Saturday, June 22nd at the Mile High Flea Market in Henderson, Colorado. LIBRE invites attendees to visit our informational booth to learn more about our organization and our message of economic freedom." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [6/20/13](#)]

The LIBRE Initiative Participated In The "Festival 38" Event To "Celebrate Economic Growth And Development" In Denver. According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "The LIBRE Initiative, a national non-partisan and non-profit national grassroots organization that works to advance the principles of economic freedom in the U.S Hispanic community, participates in "Festival 38", an event that celebrates economic growth and development in Denver. LIBRE invites attendees to visit our informational booth to learn more about our organization and our message of economic freedom. LIBRE staff will also share information about our campaign ESTAMOS CONTIGO (We are With You) for immigration reform." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [8/1/13](#)]

LIBRE Held A Free "Get Out Of Debt Seminar" In Denver. According to a LIBRE Initiative Press Release, "The LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE), a non-profit and non-partisan, national grassroots organization that works to advance the principles of economic freedom within the U.S Hispanic community, hosts a free 'Get Out of Debt' seminar this Tuesday, October 29th at Mi Casa Resource Center located at 360 Acoma Street in Denver, Colorado. Amy Fidelis, Marketing and Education Director for mpowered Colorado, will lead this educational seminar. LIBRE invites the Denver community to this FREE event that will offer those attending insights on how to manage and break free from debt as well as provide tools for long-term financial success and planning." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [10/28/13](#)]

LIBRE Attended Several Cinco De Mayo Events Around Colorado. According to a LIBRE Initiative Press Release, "The LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE) a non- profit organization that works to advance the principles of economic freedom in the U.S Hispanic Community, celebrates Cinco de Mayo with Colorado residents at numerous events throughout the region on Saturday, May 4th and Sunday May 5th 2013." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [5/2/13](#)]

LIBRE Held A "Do You Know The Constitution?" Presentation In Colorado To "Learn About Our Country's Most Precious Document." According to a LIBRE Initiative web post, "The LIBRE Initiative in Colorado hosts 'Do You Know the Constitution?' interactive presentation to learn about America's most important document." [TheLibreInitiative.com, [5/14/13](#)]

IN 2012, LIBRE RAN ADS AGAINST GOVERNMENT SPENDING TARGETED AT LATINOS IN COLORADO

LIBRE Aired A Spanish-Language Ad In Colorado That They Described As "A Call To Action To The Hispanic Community To 'Protect Our Dream And Our Freedom.'" According to the Huffington Post, "a right-leaning organization and a Latina pitch woman have picked up the argument that businesses can be built without government help. This time Cecilia Aldana, a Peruvian-American business woman, is making the case -- in an ad titled 'Cecilia y su sueño Americano' (Cecilia and her American Dream) -- that she, her family and her employees built her clinic and medical billing and accounting services companies without government help. And, she makes the claim in Spanish. The 60-second ad, funded by the LIBRE Initiative will air in Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Virginia. In a statement, LIBRE described it as call to action to the Hispanic community to 'protect our dream and our freedom.'" [Huffington Post, [9/15/12](#)]

LIBRE SUPPORTED "SCHOOL CHOICE" IN COLORADO

LIBRE Was Part Of A Coalition To Support "School Choice" In Colorado. According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "The LIBRE Initiative announced today that it is partnering with organizations in several states to commemorate National School Choice Week, and to help ensure that members of the Hispanic community have better information about

educational choice options in their areas. Hispanics support school choice more than any other demographic group. [...] Below are several of the school choice events in which the staff and volunteers of the LIBRE Initiative will participate. Stay tuned as more events may be added in the days ahead: Monday, January 26th - Denver, Colorado: LIBRE is a sponsor of the National School Choice Week celebrations at the Colorado Capitol. The rally and celebration is being co-sponsored by 14 statewide organizations and will gather hundreds of children in support of school choice. LIBRE Colorado Field Director Ivette Diaz will speak at the event.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [1/23/15](#)]

LIBRE Was “A Sponsor Of The National School Choice Week Celebrations At The Colorado Capitol.” According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, “Monday, January 26th - Denver, Colorado: LIBRE is a sponsor of the National School Choice Week celebrations at the Colorado Capitol. The rally and celebration is being co-sponsored by 14 statewide organizations and will gather hundreds of children in support of school choice. LIBRE Colorado Field Director Ivette Diaz will speak at the event.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [1/23/15](#)]

National Right To Work Committee

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK COMMITTEE “HAS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT FUNDING” FROM THE KOCH BROTHERS

National Right To Work Committee “Has Received Significant Funding From The Conservative Billionaire Koch Brothers.” According to the New York Times, “Greg Mourad, a spokesman for a lobbying organization called the National Right to Work Committee, which has received significant funding from the conservative billionaire Koch brothers, compared the experience of being made to pay union dues to being kidnapped and extorted.” [New York Times, [6/14/15](#)]

Freedom Partners Directed \$1 Million To The National Right To Work Committee. According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “In 2012, the Kochs' Freedom Partners group funneled \$1 million to the National Right to Work Committee, while the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation gave a \$15,000 grant to the NRTWLDF, which has also received significant funding from the Koch-connected DonorsTrust and Donors Capital Fund.” [Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, [6/3/14](#)]

Charles G. Koch Foundation And DonorsTrust Contributed “Significantly” To The National Right To Work Legal Defense Fund. According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “The NRTWC has deep connections within the national right-wing network led by the Koch brothers. [...] The groups remain tied to the Kochs. In 2012, the Kochs' Freedom Partners group funneled \$1 million to the National Right to Work Committee, while the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation gave a \$15,000 grant to the NRTWLDF, which has also received significant funding from the Koch-connected DonorsTrust and Donors Capital Fund. Today, at least three former Koch associates work as attorneys for the NRTWLDF.” [Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, [6/3/14](#)]

CMD: “Mark Mix, The Current Head Of The NRTW Groups, Attended The Kochs' Exclusive Aspen Strategy Meeting.” According to the Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, “In June 2010, Mark Mix, the current head of the NRTW groups, attended the Kochs' exclusive Aspen strategy meeting to give a presentation on how to mobilize conservatives for the 2010 election, along with representatives from Koch-backed groups such as the Center to Protect Patient Rights (now called American Encore) and Americans for Prosperity.” [Center for Media and Democracy’s PR Watch, [6/3/14](#)]

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK COMMITTEE WAS “PUSHING FOR RIGHT TO WORK LAWS” IN COLORADO

The National Right To Work Committee Was “Pushing For Right To Work Laws” In Colorado. According to the National Right to Work Committee website, “With every battle — win or lose — we grow stronger. And someday, with a concerted effort by you, me and thousands of Right to Work supporters all over America, I hope we may: [...] Enact State Right to Work Laws – Repeal compulsory unionism in the 27 forced-unionism states and protect Right to Work laws in the 23 states where they already exist. In addition to our success in Oklahoma, the Committee is pushing for Right to Work laws in a dozen states, from Colorado and New Mexico all the way to New Hampshire and Hawaii.” [NRTWC.org, accessed [7/6/15](#)]

The National Right To Work Committee Supported Colorado’s Amendment 47, A Right-To-Work Ballot Referendum In 2008. According to the Weekly Standard, “Jonathan Coors was outnumbered when he met with Colorado

governor Bill Ritter Jr. last April. Ritter wasn't alone in his office. The governor's secretary of labor and chief of staff were there, along with several business leaders opposed to the effort by Coors to put a right-to-work referendum on the ballot this fall. [...] Its official name is Amendment 47. But winning a majority won't be easy. At least one private poll shows the measure with better than 70 percent support. That's an illusory number, however, because it's all downhill from here. The natural evolution in the case of ballot initiatives is this: Though they often start out on top, voters find it easier to vote against than for them, particularly when there's strong and noisy opposition to the measure. [...] The amendment has the backing of the National Right to Work committee.” [Weekly Standard, 8/11/08]

- **Amendment 47 Was Voted Down In The 2008 Election.** According to the Colorado Independent, “At an event at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Denver — separate from the Democratic bash that was taking place around the same area — hundreds of union supporters gathered to watch the results come in, whooping and hollering as the fate of Amendment 47 began to appear more dismal. The measure, which was backed by number of business groups including the state chamber of commerce, failed with a ‘nay’ vote of at least 55 percent, according to the most recent polling results on the early morning hours of Wednesday.” [Colorado Independent, [11/5/08](#)]

FILMMAKERS CARL DEAL AND TIA LESSIN: NRWC AND ALEC AUTHORED A RIGHT TO WORK BILL IN COLORADO

Filmmakers Carl Deal And Tia Lessin: Legislators In Colorado Introduced “Pre-Fab ‘Right To Work’ Legislation Authored By The NRWC And The Koch-Funded American Legislative Exchange Council.” According to an opinion by filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin in the Daily Beast, “In 2012, Freedom Partners—a group that Politico dubbed the Koch’s private bank—directed \$1 million to the National Right to Work Committee (NRWC). And why Republican legislators and governors, buoyed by Walker’s success in kneecapping public sector unions, are intent on eliminating all unions, public and private sector alike. Backed by big money like AFP and other groups in the Koch political funding network, and relying on pre-fab ‘right to work’ legislation authored by the NRWC and the Koch-funded American Legislative Exchange Council, they have introduced or will soon introduce union-busting legislation in key battleground states: Ohio, Colorado, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Missouri, and Pennsylvania, as well as Wisconsin.” [Carl Deal & Tia Lessin – The Daily Beast, [12/22/14](#)]

American Energy Alliance

AMERICAN ENERGY ALLIANCE WAS “FUNDED PARTLY BY THE KOCH BROTHERS AND THEIR DONOR NETWORK”

American Energy Alliance Was “Funded Partly By The Koch Brothers And Their Donor Network.” According to Politico, “The American Energy Alliance is the political arm of the Institute for Energy Research, and sources tell POLITICO that both groups are funded partly by the Koch brothers and their donor network.” [Politico.com, [3/29/12](#)]

AMERICAN ENERGY ALLIANCE TRIED TO “QUASH” THE WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT IN 2014

American Energy Alliance Tried To “Quash Tax Credit Extensions For Wind Power That Could Be Passed In The Next Few Months Before Newly Elected Republicans” Took Office. According to the Colorado Independent, “Groups like Americans for Prosperity and the American Energy Alliance are ramping up efforts this week to quash tax credit extensions for wind power that could be passed in the next few months before newly elected Republicans generally supportive of Koch-backed policy proposals — like Colorado U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner — take office in January.” [Colorado Independent, [11/10/14](#)]

- **The Wind Production Tax Credit Has “Has Gone A Long Way To” Develop Colorado’s Wind Energy Industry.** According to the Colorado Independent, “The tax credit has gone a long way to helping developing [sic] the wind industry in the United States and to creating jobs in Colorado, home to major wind turbine manufacturer Vestas. The Danish company runs four plants in the state. Plants in Windsor and Brighton make vast turning blades and the one in Pueblo makes soaring towers.” [Colorado Independent, [11/10/14](#)]

2012 ELECTION

American Energy Alliance Spent \$325,000 On Ads In Colorado During The 2012 Election. According to Campaigns & Elections, the American Energy Alliance spent \$325,000 on ads in Colorado through July 1 during the 2012 election. [Campaigns & Elections, 8/3/12]

Colorado Was Part Of A \$3.6 Million Ad Buy From The American Energy Alliance Against President Obama About The Keystone Pipeline During The 2012 Election. According to the Associated Press, “An outside group with ties to conservative causes on Thursday launched a \$3.6 million ad buy lashing out at President Barack Obama's energy record, blaming him for rising gas prices and his decision to delay the Keystone XL pipeline project. The ads aired in eight states by the American Energy Alliance seek to undercut Obama's message that he has increased oil drilling and pushed to develop renewable energy sources, and came as the president unsuccessfully pressured Congress to cut billions of dollars in subsidies for oil companies. [...] The ads are running in New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Iowa, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, and Michigan, all states crucial to the 2012 presidential campaign.” [Associated Press, 3/29/12]

American Energy Alliance Did A Six-Week Bus Tour Ahead Of The 2012 Election With Stops In Colorado.

According to an American Energy Alliance press release, “On Tuesday, Aug. 7, the American Energy Alliance will launch a six week bus tour to promote affordable and reliable domestic energy sources, free energy markets, and less burdensome regulations on American job creators. Beginning in Dallas, TX, the ‘American Products and Power’ bus tour will travel through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Florida, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and end in Washington. D.C. on Sept. 13.” [American Energy Alliance Press Release, [8/2/12](#)]

- **AEA Also Did A Bus Tour In 2011 That Went Through Grand Junction And Craig, Colorado.** According to NBC11 News, “A bus tour making a stop in Grand Junction is trying to get the Western Slope amped about energy. It's a joint effort by Americans For Prosperity and the American Energy Alliance. [...] The bus tour has now moved to Craig for another rally set to start tonight at six.” [NBC11News.com, [10/25/11](#)]

State Policy Network

STATE POLICY NETWORK IS CONNECTED TO THE KOCHS

State Policy Network Seeks To “Build A Fifty-State Network Of Free-Market Think Tanks” That Will “Educate The General Public And Policy Makers...To Embrace Market-Friendly Policies.” According to State Policy Network's website, its “vision” is “To build a fifty-state network of free-market think tanks that are the most effective, widely respected and successful policy research and education institutions in their respective states. As a result of the investment, talent and strategic leadership that SPN provides, state-based think tanks will educate the general public and policy makers in every state to embrace market-friendly policies that maximize liberty and opportunity.” [SPN.org, viewed [1/30/14](#)]

The State Policy Network Was First Founded By ALEC. According to the Center for Media and Democracy, “The Madison Group, the predecessor to the State Policy Network (SPN) -- which was exposed recently in a Center for Media and Democracy (CMD) report, followed by the release of funding proposals detailing its coordination by The Guardian -- was ‘launched by the American Legislative Exchange Council or ALEC . . . and housed in the Chicago-based Heartland Institute.’ So says a 1991 report by the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) that was housed in the University of California-San Francisco's Legacy Tobacco Documents and uncovered by DeSmog Blog's Steve Horn. The case is strengthened by an October 1987 ALEC directory also available via the Tobacco Documents that says, ‘The Madison Group is chaired by Mrs. Constance Heckman [now Constance Campanella, founder of the lobbying firm Stateside Associates], Executive Director of ALEC . . .’ (PDF, p. 3). A speakers list also available in the Tobacco Documents says in Constance Campanella's biography, ‘She was a co-founder and first President of The Madison Group, the first network of free-market state think tanks’ (PDF, p. 3).” [Center for Media and Democracy, [12/12/13](#)]

- **ALEC Was Funded By Charles And David Koch.** According to Al Jazeera America, “Looking to expand beyond its longtime role at the state government level, in 2014 ALEC launched the American City County Exchange (ACCE), which seeks to promote its pro-business legislation at the local level. [...] What concerns ACCE opponents even more than specific pieces of legislation, however, is the idea of so much corporate influence migrating down to the local

government level. With annual funding of more than \$7 million from brothers Charles and David Koch and from multinational companies like ExxonMobil and Altria, an organization with ALEC's resources will have outsize influence on small municipalities." [Al Jazeera America, [6/18/15](#)]

Koch-Linked Americans For Prosperity Foundation And DonorsTrust Were Listed As State Policy Network

"Associate Members." According to State Policy Network's directory, in addition to its 64 members, 113 organizations are "associate members." Those associate members include Accuracy in Media, the American Legislative Exchange Council, Americans for Prosperity Foundation, DonorsTrust, and FreedomWorks. [SPN.org, accessed [6/26/14](#)]

CENTENNIAL INSTITUTE IS A SPN MEMBER

Centennial Institute Was Listed As An Associate Member Of The State Policy Network. According to the directory on the State Policy Network website, Centennial Institute was listed as an associate member of the State Policy Network. [SPN.org/directory, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

The Centennial Institute Rejected A Gay Republican Group From Speaking At Their 2015 Summit. According to the Durango Herald, "The organizer of a conservative summit planned for Colorado defended rejecting gay Republicans from attending as a partner - even though the summit has welcomed gay speakers in the past. John Andrews, a former state senator who serves as director of the conservative Centennial Institute, which organizes the Western Conservative Summit, remains steadfast in his decision. [...] The controversy began Tuesday when Andrews told the pro-gay Republican group that they could not attend the June summit as a partner because the group's 'worldview and policy agenda are fundamentally at odds with what Colorado Christian University stands for.' The Centennial Institute is on the campus of Lakewood-based Colorado Christian University." [Durango Herald, 4/17/15]

- **Centennial Institute Director John Andrews: The Group, The Log Cabin Republicans, Represents "A Clash Of Policy Goals, Rooted In Our Spiritual Convictions."** According to the Durango Herald, "The annual summit has had gay speakers in the past, including Tammy Bruce, an openly gay pro-choice conservative radio host who spoke last year. Andrews said he didn't anticipate that Bruce would speak from a gay person's perspective but added her remarks seemed constructive. [...] But Andrews said the summit must draw the line at Log Cabin Republicans, stating, 'The defining reason for Log Cabin Republicans to exist is to see the law changed for an agenda topped by same-sex marriage. CCU, as a Christian college, holds the tenet of religious faith that marriage is one man and one woman, appropriately recognized by many centuries of Western civilization and hence by civil law in this country. It was a clash of policy goals, rooted in our spiritual convictions.'" [Durango Herald, 4/17/15]

The Centennial Institute Hosted A "Threat Briefing" On The Topic Of "Civilizational Jihad." According to a Colorado Christian University press release, "The Muslim Brotherhood, driving force behind so much Middle East chaos and so much global terrorism, is well established in America and committed to 'destroying us by our own hand.' Its strategy is stealthy and nonviolent: civilizational jihad. Centennial Institute invites you to a threat briefing by John Guandolo, our policy fellow from Washington, DC. He is a former FBI expert on counter-terrorism, author of Raising a Jihadi Generation, and administrator of UnderstandingTheThreat.com." [Colorado Christian University Press Release via Plus Media Solutions, 9/5/14]

FREEDOMWORKS - COLORADO IS AFFILIATED WITH SPN

FreedomWorks - Colorado Was Listed In The State Policy Network Directory. According to the directory on the State Policy Network website, FreedomWorks - Colorado was listed under "other organizations" underneath SPN associate members. [SPN.org/directory, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

FreedomWorks Coordinated A Campaign Against Referendum C. According to a FreedomWorks press release, "FreedomWorks announced an intensification of its campaign to defeat the Referendum C tax increase in Colorado. FreedomWorks has added a second full-time staffer on the ground in Colorado to educate, train, and recruit grassroots volunteers in eight key counties: Jefferson, Larimer, Weld, Adams, Mesa, El Paso, Douglas, and Arapahoe. Utilizing an extensive network of volunteer campaign coordinators, FreedomWorks will engage in a massive voter canvassing project to reach over 75,000 voters. This new campaign effort expands plans for a massive Get out the Vote (GOTV) operation leading up to the Nov. 1 election, which will include door-to-door literature drops, grassroots rallies, and other campaign activities." [FreedomWorks Press Release via PR Newswire, 7/14/05]

- **The FreedomWorks Campaign Included A 96-Hour “Get Out The Vote” Effort “To Reach Nearly Half A Million Colorado Voters” In Four Days.** According to a FreedomWorks press release, “FreedomWorks is engaging in a 96 hour Get Out the Vote (GOTV) effort urging state voters to ‘vote NO on the Ref. C tax hike.’ The election is Nov. 1. In addition to targeted direct mail, e-mail, and phone calls, the FreedomWorks GOTV effort includes door-to-door literature drops in targeted areas throughout the state, as well as volunteer phone banks designed to hit identified “swing” voters all over Colorado, Utilizing a network of 8,000 volunteers, FreedomWorks expects to reach nearly half a million Colorado voters with the ‘vote NO’ message during this critical 4 day period.” [FreedomWorks Press Release via PR Newswire, 10/31/14]

FreedomWorks Did GOTV Outreach In Two Colorado House Districts For The 2006 Midterms. According to a FreedomWorks press release, “FreedomWorks is getting ready for the critical 2006 mid-term elections by mobilizing its grassroots network for the election season. With control of Congress hanging in the balance, our activists and field leaders have identified several competitive races, and we will support their efforts with a \$4 million campaign budget. During this election cycle, FreedomWorks will educate and mobilize likely voters on where candidates stand on crucial economic issues and provide voters with in-depth information on problems facing our country, such as retirement security, out of control government spending and a ridiculous and overly- cumbersome tax code. The FreedomWorks GOTV campaign employs old fashioned ‘shoe leather’ politics with a standing army of almost a million experienced political volunteers who are leading election year activities, including events with candidates, phone banking and GOTV calls, canvassing neighborhoods with literature and calling into local radio talk shows. To further support our on-the-ground activities, FreedomWorks Chairman Dick Armey will be traveling to selected districts/states. Key races where FreedomWorks plans grassroots activity include: [...] -- Colorado House District 7: Rick O'Donnell vs. Edwin Perlmutter -- Colorado House District 5: Doug Lamborn vs. Jay Fawcett.” [FreedomWorks Press Release via PR Newswire, 9/5/06]

MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION IS AFFILIATED WITH SPN

The Mountain States Legal Foundation Was Listed In The State Policy Network Directory. According to the directory on the State Policy Network website, the Mountain States Legal Foundation was listed under “other organizations” underneath SPN associate members. [SPN.org/directory, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

The Mountain States Legal Foundation “Challenged The Designations” Of Federal Lands As Monuments For Protection In Colorado. According to the Associated Press, “The Supreme Court refused Monday to consider overturning former President Clinton's orders protecting more than 2 million acres of federal land in five Western states. Clinton used a century-old law to create national monuments [...] The Mountain States Legal Foundation of Denver, a conservative public interest law firm, challenged the designations of monuments in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon and Washington state. The group argued Clinton abused his discretion in the 2000 designations. Bush administration lawyer Theodore Olson said there was no law allowing such lawsuits against the president over the designation of national monuments. The Antiquities Act gives presidents the power to protect land threatened by development.” [Associated Press, 10/6/03]

60 Plus Association

60 PLUS ASSOCIATION IS A SENIOR ADVOCACY FRONT GROUP FUNDED BY THE KOCH NETWORK

60 Plus Association Is “Funded Largely By Billionaire Businessmen Charles And David Koch’s Conservative Political Network.” According to the Center for Public Integrity: “The 60 Plus Association — a nonprofit senior citizen advocacy group funded largely by billionaire businessmen Charles and David Koch’s conservative political network — appears to have vastly understated its level of election spending on federal tax filings, a Center for Public Integrity review of documents indicates.” [Center for Public Integrity, [7/30/14](#)]

Koch-Affiliated Freedom Partners Gave 60 Plus \$15.7 Million In 2012. According to Politico, “The group, Freedom Partners, and its president, Marc Short, serve as an outlet for the ideas and funds of the mysterious Koch brothers, cutting checks as large as \$63 million to groups promoting conservative causes, according to an IRS document to be filed shortly. [...] Freedom Partners is organized under the same section of the Tax Code as a trade association, a 501(c)6, which allows the group to conceal its donors from public release, although the amounts and recipients of its major grants are public. The filing

offers a rare tour of the conservative movement and how it gets its funds: [...] The 60 Plus Association, a free-market seniors group that also opposes Obamacare: \$15.7 million.” [Politico.com, [9/11/13](#)]

60 Plus: We Are “Often Viewed As The Conservative Alternative To The” AARP. According to 60 Plus’ website, “Founded in 1992, the 60 Plus Association is a non-partisan seniors advocacy group with a free enterprise, less government, less taxes approach to seniors issues. 60 Plus has set ending the federal estate tax and saving Social Security for the young as its top priorities. 60 Plus is often viewed as the conservative alternative to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).” [60Plus.org, accessed [7/16/13](#), emphasis removed]

60 Plus Advocated For The Ryan Budget, Which Would Have Privatized Medicare And Turned Into A Voucher Program

60 Plus Endorsed Rep. Paul Ryan’s Budget, Including Medicare Reforms. According to a 60 Plus Association release, “The 60 Plus Association, the nation’s largest conservative seniors organization and acknowledged alternative to the liberal AARP, announced its endorsement of the budget produced this week by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), which balances the nation’s books in 10 years, simplifies the tax code, and reforms Medicare for future retirees. [...] “Let’s be clear, if we do nothing Medicare will not be there for future retirees. Paul Ryan, we seniors owe you an immense debt of gratitude for taking on the challenge of saving a teetering Medicare program that everybody acknowledges is in severe financial straits. All the Democrats do, however, is wring their hands and demagogue you with their favorite talking point to scare seniors, ‘Ryan’s plan destroys Medicare as we know it.’ Bah humbug, I say.” [60 Plus Association, [3/13/13](#)]

- **Paul Ryan’s FY 2014 Budget Would Have Privatized Medicare, Turning It Into A Voucher Program And Shifting Costs Onto Patients.** According to the Associated Press, “House Republicans unveiled their latest budget outline on Tuesday, sticking to their plans to try to repeal so-called Obamacare, cut domestic programs ranging from Medicaid to college grants and require future Medicare patients to bear more of the program’s cost. [...] For his part, Ryan has resurrected a controversial Medicare proposal that replaces traditional Medicare for those currently under 55 with a government subsidy to buy health insurance on the open market.” [Associated Press, [3/12/13](#)]
- **In 2011, 60 Plus Ran Ads Defending Ryan Plan: “Support The Republican Plan To Save Medicare.”** According to a 60 Plus video released in June 2011, “A promise is a promise. That’s what Medicare is all about. But Washington politicians have broken that promise, bankrupting Medicare while telling us not to worry. Empty promises don’t work. We must save Medicare, make it secure and even stronger for future generations. How? By cutting waste and giving seniors the same choices members of Congress have, while ensuring that there’s no disruption in benefits to those in or near retirement. After all, a promise is a promise. Tell Congress: No more empty promises. Support the Republican plan to save Medicare.” [60 Plus Association YouTube Channel, [6/3/11](#)]

60 PLUS RAN ADS IN COLORADO THANKING GOP REP. SCOTT TIPTON

The 60 Plus Association Aired Radio Ads In Colorado’s Third District To Thank Republican Rep. Scott Tipton For “Protecting Medicare During The Recent Budget Debates.” According to a press release by the 60 Plus Association, “The 60 Plus Association, nationally recognized as the conservative alternative to the liberal AARP, today launched a new radio ad in Colorado’s 3rd Congressional District, thanking Rep. Scott Tipton for protecting Medicare during the recent budget debates. ‘Rep. Scott Tipton proved he is different from many in Washington,’ said Jim Martin, Chairman of the 60 Plus Association. ‘Rep. Tipton did what he promised he would do: protect Medicare for Colorado’s seniors. He voted for the House budget proposal, which strengthens and preserves Medicare, and in doing so, helped ensure the program would be available for current and future seniors. On behalf of the 60 Plus Association, I would like to thank Rep. Tipton for standing up for Colorado seniors and protecting Medicare - just like he promised he would.’” [60 Plus Association Press Release via State News Service, 4/21/11]

- **60 Plus Also Launched A Direct Mail Campaign In Conjunction With The Radio Ad.** According to a press release by the 60 Plus Association, “The one-minute radio ad will begin airing on April 21. The organization has also launched a direct mail campaign this week across the district.” [60 Plus Association Press Release via State News Service, 4/21/11]

EPA REGULATIONS

60 Plus Commissioned A Survey That Revealed “A Strong Majority Of Colorado Senior Voters Are Concerned About The Effect That Sweeping New EPA Regulations On Power Plants Will Have On The Cost Of Energy And Higher Electricity Bills.” According to a web post from 60 Plus, “A new survey commissioned by the non-partisan 60 Plus Association reveals a strong majority of Colorado senior voters are concerned about the effect that sweeping new EPA regulations on power plants will have on the cost of energy and higher electricity bills. 60 Plus touts the support of 7.2 million senior supporters nationally, including more than 181,000 in the Centennial state.” [60Plus.org, [9/18/14](http://60Plus.org/9/18/14)]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

60 Plus Asked Colorado’s State Senate To Pass A Telecommunications Modernization Package That Was Panned By The AARP. According to the 60 Plus website, “AARP would have you believe that everyone in Colorado still uses the old ‘black phone’ attached to that wire coming out of your wall. And, that any change in current law would lead to an army of technicians marching across the state cutting every wire in site. [...] 60Plus applauds the House for passing the Telecommunications Modernization Package and asks the Senate to do the same in helping to bring Colorado into the 21st Century, create a level playing field for competitors, protect and benefit consumers.” [60Plus.org, [4/14/14](http://60Plus.org/4/14/14)]

THE KOCH AGENDA IN COLORADO: 2014 U.S. SENATE: INCUMBENT SEN. MARK UDALL V. REP. CORY GARDNER

Koch Network Involvement In Colorado During The 2014 Midterm Elections

Koch Network Non-Profits Ran A Combined 4,600 Ads In Colorado By The End Of August 2014. According to Slate, “The top six Koch-connected nonprofits have hammered Democratic Senate candidates on an ever-expanding geographic field. Through the end of August, this spending spree has included about 8,600 ads in North Carolina, 6,900 ads in Louisiana, 5,800 ads in Iowa, 4,900 ads in Michigan, 4,700 ads in Arkansas, 4,600 ads in Colorado, 3,600 ads in Alaska, and 2,400 ads in Oregon, according to a Center for Public Integrity review of Kantar Media/CMAG data.” [Slate, [9/4/14](http://Slate/9/4/14)]

Americans For Prosperity President Tim Phillips On 2014 Midterms: “Concerned Veterans Of America, Generation Opportunity And AFP Has A Good, Strong Ground Game In The Denver Area.” According to the Huffington Post, “During the congressional races panel, titled ‘2014 Debate: Immediate Opportunities to Defend Freedom,’ the discussion turned to Colorado at one point, and [AFP President Tim] Phillips highlighted the extent to which the Koch network can help fill the holes for a candidate. ‘So we have a big task ahead of us,’ he said. ‘Concerned Veterans of America, Generation Opportunity and AFP has a good, strong ground game in the Denver area.’” [Huffington Post, [8/26/14](http://Huffington Post/8/26/14)]

REP. CORY GARDNER “HEAPED PRAISE” ONTO THE KOCH’S POLITICAL NETWORK WHILE ATTENDING THEIR CALIFORNIA RETREAT

Huffington Post: Senate Candidate Rep. Cory Gardner “Heaped Praise” Onto The Koch’s Political Network While Attending Their California Retreat. According to The Huffington Post, “Three top Republican Senate candidates heaped praise on the political network built by the conservative billionaires Charles and David Koch during a secretive conference held by the brothers this past summer, according to audio of the event. [...] Iowa state Sen. Joni Ernst and Arkansas Rep. Tom Cotton directly credited donors present at the June 16 retreat in Dana Point, California, for propelling them forward. Colorado Rep. Cory Gardner told attendees that his race would likely be decided by the presence of “third party” money -- an obvious pitch for generosity from the well-heeled crowd.” [Huffington Post, [8/26/14](http://Huffington Post/8/26/14)]

Americans For Prosperity

AFP USED A PHOTO OF SEN. MARK UDALL AND PRES. OBAMA VISITING A COLORADO HOSPITAL AFTER AURORA MOVIE THEATER SHOOTING IN NEGATIVE AD CAMPAIGN

AFP Used A Photo Of U.S. Sen. Mark Udall and President Barack Obama Taken After They Consolated Aurora Theater Shooting Victims In A TV Attack Ad. According to The Denver Post, “The conservative group Americans for Prosperity was hammered Wednesday for using in an attack ad a photograph of U.S. Sen. Mark Udall and President Barack Obama taken after the two consoled Aurora theater shooting victims. The heavily edited image, which was used in a TV ad, was taken by a professional journalist July 22, 2012, two days after the shooting.” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

- **“Twelve People Were Killed And 58 Wounded” In The Aurora Theater Shooting.** According to The Denver Post, “In the AFP television ad, plastered across the photo was the statement ‘Mark Udall voted for Obamacare.’ Gov. John Hickenlooper, present in the original picture, was cropped out. Twelve people were killed and 58 wounded in the theater shooting.” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]



[Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

“Plastered Across The Photo” In AFP’s Ad Was The Statement “Mark Udall Voted For Obamacare.” According to The Denver Post, “In the AFP television ad, plastered across the photo was the statement ‘Mark Udall voted for Obamacare.’ Gov. John Hickenlooper, present in the original picture, was cropped out.” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

AFP “Later Released A New Commercial Without The Image, But Several Family Members Who Lost Loved Ones In The Massacre Released A Statement Decrying Its Use In The First Place.” According to The Denver Post, “Americans for Prosperity later released a new commercial without the image, but several family members who lost loved ones in the massacre released a statement decrying its use in the first place.” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

Victims Of Aurora Shooting: “The Use Of An Image Taken From The President's Visit To Colorado To Meet With Us After Our Children Were Killed In The Aurora Theater Shooting Is An Utter Disgrace”

Victims Statement On AFP: “The Use Of An Image Taken From The President's Visit To Colorado To Meet With Us After Our Children Were Killed In The Aurora Theater Shooting Is An Utter Disgrace.” According to The Denver Post, “‘The use of an image taken from the President's visit to Colorado to meet with us after our children were killed in the Aurora theater shooting is an utter disgrace,’ the statement said. [...] The statement was signed by Theresa Hoover, mother of AJ Boik, 18; Sandy and Lonnie Phillips, parents of Jessica Ghawi, 24; Terry and Tom Sullivan, parents of Alex Sullivan, 27; and Caren and Tom Teves, parents of Alex Teves, 24.” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

Victims Statement On AFP’s Use Of Image: “To Insinuate The Somber Expressions Were For Anything Other Than Their Compassionate Response To Our Heartbreak Is Beyond Unconscionable.” According to The Denver Post, “‘The use of an image taken from the President's visit to Colorado to meet with us after our children were killed in the Aurora theater shooting is an utter disgrace,’ the statement said. ‘And to insinuate the somber expressions were for anything other than their compassionate response to our heartbreak is beyond unconscionable.’ The statement was signed by Theresa Hoover, mother of AJ Boik, 18; Sandy and Lonnie Phillips, parents of Jessica Ghawi, 24; Terry and Tom Sullivan, parents of Alex Sullivan, 27; and Caren and Tom Teves, parents of Alex Teves, 24.” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado Tweeted: “AFP Regrets Erroneously Using The Image; It's Been Removed From The Ad; We Sincerely Apologize To Aurora Families.” According to The Denver Post, “AFP Colorado sounded more contrite later on

Twitter: ‘AFP regrets erroneously using the image; it's been removed from the ad; we sincerely apologize to Aurora families.’” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

After The Photo Controversy In April 2014, AFP-Colorado Used The Same Aurora Photo Months Later In An October 2014 Twitter Campaign Attacking Udall

After The Photo Controversy In April 2014, AFP-Colorado Used The Same Aurora Photo Months Later In An October 2014 Twitter Campaign Attacking Udall. According to BuzzFeed.com, “Two conservative groups are using a photo of President Obama visiting a Colorado hospital after the Aurora movie theater shooting in a new series of negative ads attacking Democratic Sen. Mark Udall. When the Koch-funded Americans For Prosperity used the same image in an April ad campaign, the group called it ‘an unfortunate oversight.’ Now the photo is back in advertising in Colorado, popping up in a social media campaign run by AFP and brand new negative TV spot funded by the Koch-backed Freedom Partners Action Fund. [...]AFP’s Colorado arm also used the whole image in an Oct. 6 Twitter campaign.” [BuzzFeed.com, [10/7/14](#)]



[BuzzFeed.com, [10/7/14](#)]

AFP SPENT OVER \$1 MILLION ON ADS IN COLORADO

In March 2014, AFP Ran A Three-Week, “Nearly \$1 Million” Ad Campaign Against Sen. Udall, Which Linked The Senator To Affordable Care Act and Stated It Was “Truly Harming Real Coloradans.” According to the Associated Press, “A national organization affiliated with billionaire brothers known as power players in conservative politics has turned its attention to U.S. Sen. Mark Udall with a political attack ad linking the Democrat to the federal health care overhaul, saying ‘Obamacare’ was ‘truly harming real Coloradans.’ The political group Americans for Prosperity, backed by Charles and David Koch, announced the nearly \$1 million campaign in a statement Monday. The ads will air for the next three weeks in the Denver and Colorado Springs markets, Colorado's main population centers.” [Associated Press, [3/17/14](#)]

- **PolitiFact Gave The AFP Ad A “False” Rating On Its Truth-O-Meter.** According to the Tampa Bay Times’ PolitiFact.com, “Americans for Prosperity has been active on the airwaves already this election cycle. The group, which opposes Obamacare, has run a handful of ads featuring people telling health care ‘horror stories’ meant to tug on the heartstrings. We’ve looked at a couple and explained how they can be misleading. But a pair of new ads take an entirely different tack to undercut support from Democratic Sens. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Mark Udall of Colorado. (It has also run against Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., and Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark.) [...]Americans for Prosperity said ‘millions are paying more and getting less’ under Obamacare. We found their explanation of ‘less’ rather dubious. Most people on the individual market are getting more benefits under the law. At worst, they’re paying

more to get more, though in many cases they're actually paying less. We rate this claim False." [PolitiFact.com, [3/20/14](#)]

In April 2014, AFP Launched A TV Ad That Hit Sen. Mark Udall With A \$300,000 Ad Buy. According to The Denver Post's The Spot blog, "A new TV ad unveiled Wednesday by the conservative group Americans for Prosperity hits U.S. Sen. Mark Udall for the nearly 335,000 health insurance policy cancellations doled out to Coloradans since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. 'Your health plan, cancelled. All because Mark Udall said 'yes' to Obamacare,' says the narrator. The 30 second spot costs about \$300,000 and will run in the Denver media market over the next three weeks. It's the second TV ad from AFP, which is backed by the billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, bringing the total spent in Colorado by the group to about \$1.3 million this election cycle." [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]

In August 2014, AFP Launched A TV Ad That Highlighted Sen. Mark Udall's Record On The Affordable Care Act With A \$500,000 Ad Buy. According to Colorado Peak Politics, "Today, Americans for Prosperity launched a new ad, 'Unaffordable', which will highlight liberal U.S. Senator Mark Udall's record on Obamacare and the devastating facts about the harm Obamacare has caused. The ad buy is just over \$500,000 and will run for the next few weeks." [ColoradoPeakPolitics.com, [8/13/14](#)]

AFP-COLORADO CLAIMED TO KNOCK ON "10,000 DOORS EVERY WEEK" DURING MIDTERMS

Dustin Zvonek, AFP-Colorado State Director Until 2015, Claimed AFP Knocked On "10,000 Doors Every Week In Colorado." According to The Denver Post, "'We're trying to build a grassroots army,' said Dustin Zvonek, head of the group's Colorado affiliate. A giant in the political world, Americans for Prosperity is no stranger to television — having run TV ads in Colorado as early as last October. But Zvonek said reaching like-minded voters — and getting them to vote — is the real key to winning elections. 'The hard work, but the most important work, is the ground effort,' Zvonek said. With a team of roughly 35 members, the state chapter of AFP is 'knocking on 10,000 doors every week in Colorado,' he said." [Denver Post, [9/14/14](#)]

Zvonek: AFP Staff Members Often Used "A Four-Question Survey To Determine Voters' Views Toward Federal Spending And The Affordable Care Act" While Canvassing. According to The Denver Post, "'We're trying to build a grassroots army,' said Dustin Zvonek, head of the group's Colorado affiliate. A giant in the political world, Americans for Prosperity is no stranger to television — having run TV ads in Colorado as early as last October. But Zvonek said reaching like-minded voters — and getting them to vote — is the real key to winning elections. 'The hard work, but the most important work, is the ground effort,' Zvonek said. With a team of roughly 35 members, the state chapter of AFP is 'knocking on 10,000 doors every week in Colorado,' he said. When they do, staff members often use a four-question survey to determine voters' views toward federal spending and the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as 'Obamacare.'" [Denver Post, [9/14/14](#)]

- **Zvonek: Colorado Voters' Opinions On Obamacare Were "Not Strong...We Really Have An Opportunity To Educate Them More."** According to The Denver Post, "It's the health care question that [AFP-CO State Director Dustin] Zvonek said ultimately could produce the biggest payoff with Colorado voters. 'Opinions on Obamacare are not strong,' he said. 'We really have an opportunity to educate them more.'" [Denver Post, [9/14/14](#)]

AFP-CO Planned A "Mad Scramble" To Knock On Doors Once The State Sent Out Mail-In Ballots Because It Was The First Major Election In Which Every Active Colorado Voter Was Supposed To Get One. According to The Denver Post, "There's plenty of time to make an impact, too. Colorado has a lengthy early-voting period, which begins in mid-October. 'We don't have an Election Day anymore,' Zvonek said. 'We have an Election Deadline.' He added that his team is planning a 'mad scramble' to knock on doors once the state sends out mail-in ballots — as this year will be the first major election in which every active Colorado voter will get one. Many of these homes will house the same voters who took the four-question survey for Americans for Prosperity. 'Inevitably, there are a lot of ballots that will be tossed in the trash,' Zvonek said. 'We're trying to minimize that.'" [Denver Post, [9/14/14](#)]

AFP Sent A Report Card To Colorado Voters "Detailing How Often Each Recipient Had Voted Compared With Four Neighbors With A Perfect Voting History"

AFP Sent A Report Card To Colorado Voters "Detailing How Often Each Recipient Had Voted Compared With Four Neighbors With A Perfect Voting History." According to the LA Times, "Its [AFP's] most recent mailing in

Colorado was a report card detailing how often each recipient had voted compared with four neighbors with a perfect voting history — a gentle, data-driven nudge to return their ballots.” [LA Times, [10/25/14](#)]

AFP PRESIDENT TIM PHILLIPS HIGHLIGHTED NEED FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR REP. CORY GARDNER

AFP President Tim Phillips Highlighted Need For Outside Support For Rep. Cory Gardner. According to the Huffington Post, “During the congressional races panel, titled ‘2014 Debate: Immediate Opportunities to Defend Freedom,’ the discussion turned to Colorado at one point, and [AFP President Tim] Phillips highlighted the extent to which the Koch network can help fill the holes for a candidate. ‘So we have a big task ahead of us,’ he said. ‘Concerned Veterans of America, Generation Opportunity and AFP has a good, strong ground game in the Denver area. But this is a big fight to make sure they don't define [Rep. Cory] Gardner -- he's a good guy, a free market guy, his voting record is great in the House -- make sure they don't define him as some extremist, because he's not.’” [Huffington Post, [8/26/14](#)]

AFP ATTACKED SEN. MARK UDALL BY LINKING HIM TO PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

AFP-Colorado Flew A Plane Over A Baseball Stadium That Said “Tell Sen. Udall Obamacare Is Striking Out” And Handed Out Foam Baseballs Which Were Made In China. According to the Denver Post, “‘Americans for Prosperity Colorado is handing out foam baseballs prior to the game that say ‘Tell Sen. Udall Obamacare is striking out.’ A plane carrying a banner that says the same thing will fly over Coors Field from 4 to 6 this afternoon. The game against the Arizona Diamondbacks begins at 2:10 p.m. ‘If Mark Udall pitched baseballs like he pitched healthcare, he’s [sic] have washed out of the minor leagues long ago for not being able to throw straight,’ said AFP’s state director, Dustin Zvonek. ‘Not only did the senator throw Coloradans a wild pitch by lying to them about the health law, but he’s been Team Obama’s most valuable player for years, backing a host of policies that haven’t served this state or nation well.’ Said Chris Harris, Udall’s spokesman: ‘It’s never good to hand out stuff in American politics that says “Made in China.”’ Sure enough, it says that on the ball.” [Lynn Bartels - Denver Post, [4/4/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado “Drew Attention To Senator Udall’s Failure To Name More Than One Policy Last Night In Which He Opposed The Obama Administration” For The Second Time. According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “‘Americans for Prosperity drew attention to Senator Udall’s failure to name more than one policy last night in which he opposed the Obama administration. This was the second time the sitting Senator, who claimed that the White House fears him for his independent thinking, struggled to produce tangible examples of his supposed independent record.’” [AFP-CO Press Release, [10/6/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado State Director: “Mark Udall Likes To Talk A Lot About His ‘Colorado Compass’, But He Might Want To Get It Recalibrated... It Always Points Towards The White House, Not The Centennial State.” According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “‘Mark Udall likes to talk a lot about his ‘Colorado Compass’, but he might want to get it recalibrated,’ explained Dustin Zvonek, Colorado state director of Americans for Prosperity. ‘No matter where he is, it always points towards the White House, not the Centennial State. Whether it’s his vote for ObamaCare, his attempt to hide the disastrous facts of ObamaCare’s impact on his constituents, his repeated opposition to construction of the Keystone Pipeline, or his support for Washington’s wasteful spending and high debt, Senator Udall has placed Washington interests above Colorado’s. It’s no wonder he couldn’t identify more than one policy in which he opposes the President.’” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [10/16/14](#)]

AFP Press Release Headline: “Americans for Prosperity: 222,000 More Reasons to Fire Udall.” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [10/20/14](#)]

AFP: After 22,000 Coloradans Had Their Insurance Plans Cancelled, “Senator Udall’s Official Response... Was Only To Tout His Support For Temporarily Allowing People To Extend Existing Plans.” According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “‘Americans for Prosperity responded today to the news that 22,000 Coloradans had their insurance plans cancelled last month and a whopping 200,000 more are expected to lose their plan next month. In the wake of the bombshell announcement Friday afternoon, Senator Udall’s official response through a staffer was only to tout his support for temporarily allowing people to extend existing plans.’” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [10/20/14](#)]

AFP State Director: “Senator Udall Had His Chance To Do The Right Thing And Vote To Repeal Or At Least Substantially Reform The Broken Obamacare Law. Instead, He Has Doubled Down On His Support” Of It.

According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “AFP State Director Dustin Zvonek offered the following statement: ‘Senator Udall had his chance to do the right thing and vote to repeal or at least substantially reform the broken ObamaCare law. Instead, he has doubled down on his support for the law while desperately trying to convince voters that his ‘Colorado Compass’ points at Colorado, not Washington, DC. The gig is up: Senator Udall has proven that he long-ago traded Colorado independence to become the Obama administration’s rubber stamp. It’s time to retire Senator Udall.’” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [10/20/14](#)]

AFP-Colorado Announced That State Director Dustin Zvonek Was “Available To Provide Pre-Election Commentary” And Was “Particularly Knowledgeable About Senator Udall’s Continual Support For President Obama’s Agenda.” According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “Americans for Prosperity (AFP) Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek is available to provide pre-election commentary about the issues facing Colorado this election. Zvonek is particularly knowledgeable about Senator Udall’s continual support for President Obama’s agenda such as the healthcare law, Keystone delays and the EPA’s war on traditional energy, and wasteful Washington spending and higher taxes. Americans for Prosperity has been driving the debate in Colorado over these and other issues through a relentless grassroots ground game with volunteers contacting hundreds of thousands of Coloradans.” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [10/29/14](#)]

AFP-CO State Director On ACA: “The Law Is Making Healthcare More Expensive... The Only Response From Udall...Has Been To Try And Cover Up The True Negative Impacts This Law Has Had On Our State.” According to a press release from AFP-Colorado, “Americans for Prosperity Colorado State Director Dustin Zvonek issued the following statement on the news that nearly 150,000 Coloradans are seeing their health insurance become 77 percent more expensive: ‘Hundreds of thousands of Coloradans are seeing their insurance rates explode thanks to Mark Udall’s support for Obamacare. The law is making healthcare more expensive, and contrary to Sen. Udall’s promise, the law is forcing Coloradans off their old health plans. The only response from Udall, who votes with President Obama 99 percent of the time, has been to try and cover up the true negative impacts this law has had on our state.’” [AFP-Colorado Press Release, [10/30/14](#)]

AFP-CO Tied Sen. Udall To A CBO Report Claiming Obamacare Will Cost The Nation 2.3 Million Jobs. According to a press release on the Americans for Prosperity Colorado’s website, “Today Americans for Prosperity, the nation’s largest advocate for health care freedom, released a new ad in response to the latest CBO report showing Obamacare will cost the nation the equivalent of 2.3 million jobs and nearly 43,000 in Colorado alone, according to a related report by Americans for Tax Reform. AFP-CO state director Dustin Zvonek said: ‘The CBO’s damning estimates confirm what critics of government health care have been saying all along, which is that it will deliver yet another blow to an economy already reeling from this administration’s repeated acts of economic malpractice. But it can’t all be laid at this President’s feet; ObamaCare wouldn’t be possible without the support of Obama loyalists from Colorado, including Senator Mark Udall, who has voted in lockstep with the President on almost every issue.’” [Press Release - AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [2/6/14](#)]

AFP-CO: “Americans For Prosperity Is Asking How Senator Udall Is Going To Help The Faculty At Colorado Mountain College Whose Hours Have Been Cut Due To Obamacare.” According to a press release on the Americans for Prosperity Colorado’s website, “Americans for Prosperity is asking how Senator Udall is going to help the faculty at Colorado Mountain College whose hours have been cut due to ObamaCare. The Aspen Daily News reported today that ‘CMC has joined many community colleges across the country by capping part-time teaching loads to fall below that 30-hour threshold, averting an unbudgeted increase in faculty health care costs next year.’” [Press Release - AmericansForProsperity.org/Colorado, [3/26/14](#)]

Freedom Partners

FREEDOM PARTNERS ACTION FUND WAS PARTLY FUNDED BY THE KOCHS

In 2014, Charles Koch “Sent \$3 Million Through A Trust To Freedom Partners Action Fund.” According to Bloomberg, “Charles Koch, the billionaire chairman and chief executive officer of Koch Industries, sent \$3 million through a trust to Freedom Partners Action Fund, a Republican super-PAC that he and his brother David have helped underwrite. That was the largest donation the super-PAC received from Oct. 16 to Nov. 24. The group played in about a dozen races, including Senate contests in Arkansas and Iowa that Republicans won.” [Bloomberg, [12/5/14](#)]

COLORADO-BASED FREEDOM PARTNERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DONORS DEFENDED KOCHS IN OP-ED BEFORE 2014 ELECTIONS

Freedom Partners Chamber Of Commerce Donors Chris And Liz Wright Defended The Koch Brothers In An Op-Ed For A Colorado Newspaper In October 2014. According to an op-ed by Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce donors Chris and Liz Wright for The Gazette, “Politics seems to be the only line of work where you don't have to base your arguments in fact. For example, see the Mark-Udall-for- Senate campaign's recent claim that Charles and David Koch want to ‘trap. Colorado families in poverty.’ This comment echoes Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's recent statement that the Kochs are ‘un- American.’ Such attacks are directed at everyone who supports the same causes as the Kochs, including the two of us. These attacks are blatantly false. We want nothing more than to help the least fortunate.” [Chris and Liz Wright – The Gazette, 10/27/14]

- **Chris Wright Was The CEO Of Liberty Resources And Liberty Oilfield Services, “Both Denver-Based Companies Focused On Hydraulic Fracturing And Energy Production.”** According to an op-ed by Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce donors Chris and Liz Wright for The Gazette, “Chris and Liz Wright live in Denver. They are supporters of Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wright is the CEO of Liberty Resources and Liberty Oilfield Services, both Denver-based companies focused on hydraulic fracturing and energy production.” [Chris and Liz Wright – The Gazette, 10/27/14]

FREEDOM PARTNERS ACTION FUND SPENT \$2.5 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF REPUBLICAN SENATE CANDIDATE REP. CORY GARDNER

Freedom Partners Action Fund Spent \$2.5 Million In Support Of Republican Senate Candidate Rep. Cory Gardner. According to Roll Call's Beltway Insiders blog, “Freedom Partners Action Fund has spent some \$15 million already in tight Senate races [...] The super PAC's pro-GOP spending includes \$3.3 million to back Tom Cotton in Arkansas; \$3.2 million for Joni Ernst in Iowa; \$2.5 million for Cory Gardner in Colorado, and \$1.9 million supporting Thom Tillis in North Carolina.” [Roll Call, [10/24/14](#)]

Freedom Partners President Marc Short Called Rep. Cory Gardner “A Champion Of Freedom”

Freedom Partners President Marc Short Said Rep. Cory Gardner “Has Been A Champion Of Freedom.” According to the transcript of a Koch Conference panel, “[Freedom Partners president] MARC SHORT: ‘Moving onto Colorado. [Rep.] Cory Gardner is with us here this weekend. He has really solidified the Republican field. Other candidates got out; he got in. He has been a champion of freedom. Colorado was not on our list a year ago. But a lot has changed in Colorado (inaudible) to the left (inaudible) such as the tragedy in Colorado. (Inaudible) Second Amendment issue. So we think that Colorado is actually in play, and we’re excited about Cory’s candidacy.’” [Koch Conference Panel Transcript, Posted [8/26/14](#)]

FREEDOM PARTNERS PUT OUT A \$1.5 MILLION AD CAMPAIGN AGAINST SEN. MARK UDALL

Freedom Partners Put Out A \$1.5 Million Ad Campaign Against Sen. Mark Udall In The 2014 Midterm Elections. According to Politico, “Freedom Partners Action Fund is launching an \$1.5 million ad campaign today that describes Colorado Democratic Sen. Mark Udall as a steadfast supporter of President Barack Obama. ‘Mark Udall can’t hide his partisan record,’ a female narrator says. ‘He’s not the independent voice Colorado needs.’” [Politico, [10/8/14](#)]

Colorado Was Part Of A \$6.5 Million Freedom Partners Action Fund Advertising Campaign As A “Closing Argument” In The 2014 Midterm Elections. According to a Freedom Partners Action Fund press release, “Freedom Partners Action Fund, a free-market Super PAC, is announcing a \$6.5 million ad campaign that will begin on Wednesday, October 22 and continue through Election Day. Airing in Alaska, Arkansas, North Carolina, Colorado, Iowa and online in New Hampshire, the ads are designed to deliver a clear closing argument that a vote for the Democratic candidate is a vote for President Obama’s failed agenda.” [Freedom Partners Action Fund Press Release, [10/22/14](#)]

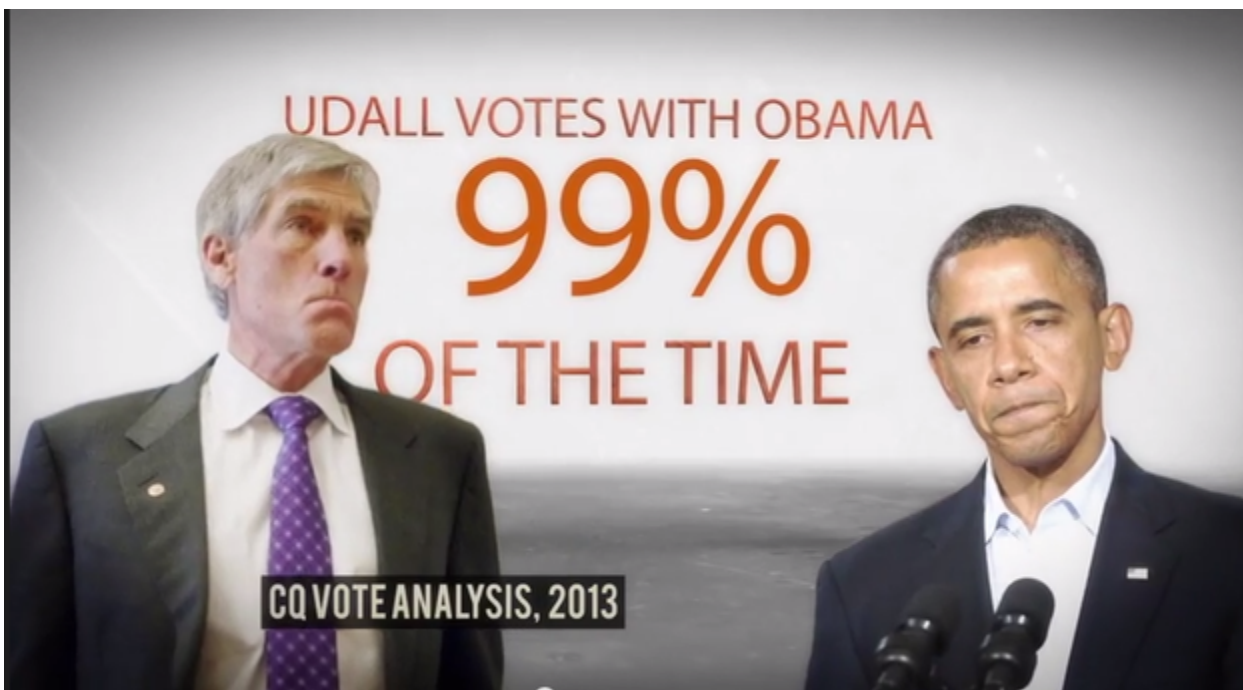
- **The Ad Claimed That Mark Udall “Voted For Obamacare, Then Pressured Officials To Cover Up Cancellation Notices.”** According to the Washington Examiner, “Freedom Partners Action Fund on Wednesday is scheduled to hit the airwaves in six states as part of a \$6.5 million television advertising campaign to boost Republican

Senate candidates. [...] The ads feature real voters, whose names and hometowns are listed on screen, talking straight to camera about why they oppose the Democratic nominee and back the Republican. ‘There are many reasons Sen. Mark Udall hasn’t earned six more years,’ Janna Widdifield, of Arvada, Colo., says in the spot set to run in the Centennial State. ‘He voted for Obamacare and pressured officials to cover up cancellation notices.’” [Washington Examiner, [10/22/14](#)]

NEGATIVE TV SPOT FUNDED BY FREEDOM PARTNERS USED A PHOTO OF PRES. OBAMA TAKEN AFTER CONSOLING AURORA MOVIE THEATER SHOOTING VICTIMS

Negative TV Spot Funded By Freedom Partners Action Fund Used A Photo Of President Barack Obama Taken After He Consoled Aurora Theater Shooting Victims In An Attack Ad. According to BuzzFeed.com, “Two conservative groups are using a photo of President Obama visiting a Colorado hospital after the Aurora movie theater shooting in a new series of negative ads attacking Democratic Sen. Mark Udall. [...] Now the photo is back in advertising in Colorado, popping up in a social media campaign run by AFP and brand new negative TV spot funded by the Koch-backed Freedom Partners Action Fund.” [BuzzFeed.com, [10/7/14](#)]

- **“Twelve People Were Killed And 58 Wounded” In The Aurora Theater Shooting.** According to The Denver Post, “In the AFP television ad, plastered across the photo was the statement ‘Mark Udall voted for Obamacare.’ Gov. John Hickenlooper, present in the original picture, was cropped out. Twelve people were killed and 58 wounded in the theater shooting.” [Denver Post, [4/23/14](#)]



[BuzzFeed.com, [10/7/14](#)]

Freedom Partners Action Fund Later Removed The Image Of President Obama From The Ad. According to BuzzFeed.com, “Two Update, 5:30 PM: Freedom Partners Action Fund says its removing the image of Obama. ‘The photo of President Obama has been removed and is not included in the final draft that will begin airing tomorrow,’ a Freedom Partners spokesperson told BuzzFeed News.” [BuzzFeed.com, [10/7/14](#)]

Generation Opportunity

GENERATION OPPORTUNITY IS LINKED TO THE KOCH BROTHERS

The Atlantic: Generation Opportunity Is “Part Of The Billionaire Koch Brothers-Funded Empire Of Independent Groups Seeking To Influence Public Policy In A More Free-Market Direction.” According to The Atlantic, “Both Generation Opportunity and Americans for Prosperity are part of the billionaire Koch brothers-funded empire of independent groups seeking to influence public policy in a more free-market direction.” [The Atlantic, [9/19/13](#)]

Generation Opportunity Raised “Almost 86 Percent Of Its Funds From Just Two Koch-Linked Nonprofits.”

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “In the three years for which tax information is available, Generation Opportunity has raised almost 86 percent of its funds from just two Koch-linked nonprofits.” [OpenSecrets.org, [5/13/14](#)]

The New York Times: Generation Opportunity “Receives Substantial Backing From Freedom Partners And Appears Ready To Expand.”

According to The New York Times: “But conservatives are finding that with relatively small advertising buys, they can make a splash. Generation Opportunity, the youth-oriented outfit behind the ‘Creepy Uncle Sam’ ads, is spending \$750,000 on that effort, aimed at dissuading young people — a cohort critical to the success of the health care overhaul — from signing up for insurance under the new law. The group receives substantial backing from Freedom Partners and appears ready to expand. Recently, Generation Opportunity moved into spacious new offices in Arlington, Va., where exposed ductwork, Ikea chairs and a Ping-Pong table give off the feel of a Silicon Valley start-up.” [New York Times, [10/6/13](#)]

GENOPP PRESIDENT EVAN FEINBERG: “COLORADO IS ONE OF THE STATES I'M MOST EXCITED ABOUT.”

Generation Opportunity Has Had An Office In Colorado Since July 2014. According to KUNC 91.5, an NPR affiliate, “‘Obamacare puts a massive burden on my generation and we're paying for older, sicker and richer Americans,’ said Jonathon Lockwood, state director for the nonprofit pro-freedom advocacy group [Generation Opportunity]. Generation Opportunity has been running an office in Colorado Since July. ‘We're the first generation in our country to be handed a worse future than previous generations,’ Lockwood said. While the group is independent, it most frequently aligns with Republicans.” [KUNC.org, [10/6/14](#)]

Then-Generation Opportunity President Evan Feinberg: “Colorado Is One Of The States I'm Most Excited About.”

According to the Denver Post, “An Arlington, Va.-based nonprofit with ties to the Koch brothers, which brands itself as a ‘millennial advocacy group,’ rolled out television and Internet ads Wednesday attacking Sen. Mark Udall's voting record. [...] ‘Colorado is one of the states I'm most excited about,’ said Evan Feinberg, president of the group Generation Opportunity.” [Denver Post, [6/28/14](#)]

GENERATION OPPORTUNITY SPENT “MORE THAN \$1.2 MILLION IN PAID ISSUE ADVOCACY COMMUNICATIONS” IN COLORADO

Generation Opportunity Announced That They Spent “More Than \$1.2 Million In Paid Issue Advocacy Communications” In Colorado

According to a Generation Opportunity press release, “Generation Opportunity, a youth advocacy organization, has been working hard in Colorado to promote economic liberty and encourage young people to engage on the issues they care most about. GenOpp is proud to announce the following metrics: More than \$1.2 million in paid issue advocacy communications and grassroots lobbying, including over \$900,000 in TV ads.” [Generation Opportunity Press Release, [10/31/14](#)]

Generation Opportunity Spent \$648,000 On Ads In Colorado Between June And August For The 2014 Midterms.

According to Colorado Public Radio, “The U.S. Senate race. The 6th Congressional District. Obamacare. Birth control. Immigration. The topics seem never ending -- and it will only get worse as the Nov. 4 general election nears. More than \$43 million in political ads – almost 18 days worth of time – have aired or will air through Election Day. That's according to contracts filed by Colorado television stations with the Federal Communications Commission through Aug. 15. [...] Several groups linked to the billionaire industrialist Koch Brothers are running ads. Freedom Partners has almost \$1.2 million in ads, Generation Opportunity has \$648,000, Americans for Prosperity has \$382,000 and American Energy Alliance has almost \$160,000. Like Crossroads, these ads criticize Udall, Romanoff and other Democrats on various issues.” [CPR.org, [8/19/14](#)]

GenOpp Sent Out A Mailer In Colorado With A Picture Of Uncle Sam That Reads, “I Want You To Serve Your Country. I Want You To Vote.”

According to The Gazette, “A less one-sided voice also is encouraging voters to return their mailed ballots by Nov. 4. Generation Opportunity, a millennial advocacy organization, is sending mailers with patriotic images

and phrases encouraging people to vote. The organization launched in June 2011 and uses social media and other outlets to try to appeal to young voters. ‘I want you to serve your country,’ a mailer reads, with a picture of Uncle Sam. ‘I want you to vote.’” [Gazette, [10/19/14](#)]

GenOpp Spent “More Than \$1 Million On Ads Against Democratic Incumbent Senator Mark Udall.”

GenOpp Spent “More Than \$1 Million On Ads Against Democratic Incumbent Senator Mark Udall.” According to KUNC 91.5, an NPR affiliate, “So far, they’ve [Generation Opportunity] spent more than \$1 million on ads against Democratic incumbent Senator Mark Udall.” [KUNC.org, [10/6/14](#)]

GenOpp Ran An Ad Claiming That Sen. Mark Udall Was “Forcing” Young People To Buy Healthcare. According to a Generation Opportunity ad, “And now he [Mark Udall] is forcing us to buy healthcare we can’t afford. Mark Udall thinks my generation isn’t paying attention.” [Generation Opportunity ad via YouTube, [6/25/14](#)]

Generation Opportunity-Colorado Aired A Spot Against Sen. Mark Udall Featuring A Mock-App Of Tinder And “Urges Young People To Swipe Left.” According to the National Journal, “If you saw Mark Udall on Tinder, which way would you swipe? In his mid-60s and married, the Democratic senator from Colorado probably doesn’t use the hook-up app, which allows users to OK paramours with a right swipe and deny them by swiping left. And he definitely doesn’t use Pander, the mock app featured in conservative ‘millennial advocacy’ outfit Generation Opportunity’s new YouTube ad. Released Friday by the Colorado branch of the organization, the 30-second spot urges young people to swipe left—the digital version of saying, ‘Thanks, but I’m not interested’—on Udall.” [National Journal, [9/19/14](#)]

GenOpp-Colorado Aired An Ad Against Sen. Mark Udall Opposing Udall’s Support For An Internet Sales Tax. According to a Generation Opportunity press release, “Generation Opportunity is releasing a creative new ad, ‘Tech Support,’ which highlights Senator Mark Udall’s support for an Internet Sales Tax. The ad urges young people to contact Senator Udall and tell him to oppose the Marketplace Fairness Act.” [Generation Opportunity Press Release, [9/24/14](#)]

- **The Ad Featured Middle-Aged Lawmakers Asking “Off-Beat Questions” About The Internet To Depicting Udall As Too Old To Understand Millennial Issues.** According to an opinion by Tessa Cheek for the Colorado Independent, “‘Tech Support’ is the funniest ad I’ve seen this election cycle from the Koch-funded millennials group Generation Opportunity. [...] The ad features a black, millennial-aged guy working at the ‘Congressional I.T. Department.’ One after another, aged lawmakers come to his desk with hilariously off-beat questions such as, ‘is Google open on weekends,’ and ‘what channel is the YouTube on?’ ‘Congress doesn’t understand the Internet, but Senator Mark Udall decided to tax it anyway,’ concludes a young-sounding female narrator, encouraging viewers to call Udall and ask him to vote against the Internet sales tax. [Tessa Cheek – Boulder Weekly, [10/25/14](#)]

Concerned Veterans For America

CVA LAUNCHED A “SIX-FIGURE MAIL AND DIGITAL AD CAMPAIGN” IN SUPPORT OF REP. MIKE COFFMAN

CVA Ran Radio Ads In Denver Praising Rep. Mike Coffman For His “Principled Stand In Voting Against The Most Recent Budget Deal.” According to a Concerned Veterans for America press release, “New ads produced by Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) blasts Congress for failing to address the nation’s dangerous \$17 trillion debt and instead cutting pensions for military retirees. The 30-second ads—totaling \$770,136 and entitled ‘Priorities’—will run statewide on TV and radio in Arkansas, on radio in Denver, Colorado, and online throughout the country for three weeks. The ads praise Rep. Tom Cotton (AR-4) and Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-6) for their principled stand in voting against the most recent budget deal. Rep. Cotton, an Army veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, and Rep. Coffman, an Army veteran of Iraq, both deserve praise for opposing a deal that neglects meaningful spending reforms and instead cuts pensions for military retirees.” [Concerned Veterans for America Press Release, [1/23/14](#)]

CVA Launched A “Six-Figure Mail And Digital Ad Campaign” In Support Of Republican Rep. Mike Coffman.

According to a Concerned Veterans for America web post, “Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) today launched a new ad, ‘Leadership,’ thanking Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.) for his long record of responsibly promoting reform at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). For years, Rep. Coffman has participated in the crafting of aggressive VA reform

legislation that tends to the physical and mental well-being of our veterans. The six-figure mail and digital ad campaign in Colorado is a continuation of CVA's VA Accountability project, a campaign to bring long-overdue accountability to the Department of Veterans Affairs." [CV4A.org, [7/21/14](#)]

LIBRE Initiative

LIBRE RAN ADS AGAINST GOVERNMENT SPENDING TARGETED AT LATINOS IN COLORADO

LIBRE Ran Bilingual Online Ads In Colorado In Opposition To "Members Of Congress Who Have Voted To Increase Government Spending And Debt." According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "Today the LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE), a nonpartisan, nonprofit national grassroots organization, today announced the start of a series of online ads calling attention to Members of Congress who have voted to increase government spending and debt, and calling on them to change course. The bilingual campaign will appear in Colorado, North Carolina, Florida's 26th Congressional District, Texas's 23rd Congressional District, and the 1st and 2nd Congressional districts in Arizona." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [10/15/14](#)]

- **"The Ads Register The Concerns That LIBRE Has Heard From Latinos Regarding The Lack Of Spending Discipline In Washington."** According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "The ads register the concerns that LIBRE has heard from Latinos regarding the lack of spending discipline in Washington and encourage constituents to tell their elected officials to reduce spending during the upcoming December budget debate." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [10/15/14](#)]
- **The English-Language Ad That Ran In Colorado Asked Viewers To Tell Mark Udall To "Start Working For Us. Stop Working Against Us."** According to a LIBRE Initiative ad, "What do we get from Senator Mark Udall? Empty promises. [...] Tell Mark Udall we can't afford his policies. Start working for us. Stop working against us." [LIBRE Initiative ad via YouTube, [10/15/14](#)]

LIBRE Aired Online Ads During The 2014 Midterm Elections In English And Spanish To "Note The Negative Effects Of Excessive Federal Spending." According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "The LIBRE Initiative (LIBRE), a nonpartisan, nonprofit national grassroots organization, announced today the release of a series of online advertisements in two states and four congressional districts. The ads note the negative effects of excessive federal spending and call for policy changes in Washington. They carry messages from local Latinos from the states and districts in question. The ads - which are in both English and Spanish - will be seen in North Carolina, Colorado, Florida's 26th Congressional District, Texas's 23rd Congressional District, and the 1st and 2nd Congressional Districts in Arizona." [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [9/24/14](#)]

- **LIBRE Initiative Executive Director Daniel Garza: "This Campaign Highlights The Voices Of Average Americans Who Want Their Leaders To Vote To Bring Spending Under Control."** According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "Daniel Garza, Executive Director of The LIBRE Initiative, released the following statement: 'Millions of Americans are concerned because they feel like Washington is out of control, and their elected officials are refusing to lead and have failed to listen to the policy priorities and concerns of our most vulnerable calling for fiscal responsibility. Instead of acting to rein in our growing debt and curb the growth of government, they continue to vote for measures that grow the government at the expense of the private sector. But while Washington continues to grow, families, workers, and small businesses are hurting. This campaign highlights the voices of average Americans who want their leaders to vote to bring spending under control so the economy can grow.'" [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [9/24/14](#)]

LIBRE RAN A 72-HOUR CAMPAIGN LEADING UP TO THE 2014 MIDTERM ELECTION IN COLORADO

LIBRE Ran A 72-Hour Campaign Leading Up To The 2014 Midterm Election In Colorado, "Making Calls And Walking Door To Door." According to a LIBRE Initiative press release, "Starting this Saturday, LIBRE Initiative activists will launch a 72-hour campaign designed to inform people around the country about issues that affect them, and to encourage them to vote on Election Day. Volunteers and members of the LIBRE team will be making calls and walking door to door in

neighborhoods in Colorado, Florida, Texas, and Arizona to inform about the need for policies that decrease wasteful spending and regulation, in order to spur economic growth.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [10/31/14](#)]

LIBRE Canvassed In Colorado To “Raise Awareness Of Policies That Don’t Hinder Economic Growth.” According to the Washington Post, “Outside groups including Mi Familia Vota and SEIU are also working to galvanize the Hispanic population here. So is the Libre Initiative, a conservative organization funded by the Koch Brothers. Sporting blue T-shirts reading #BeLibre, volunteers fanned out across West Denver neighborhoods all day Saturday, handing out door flyers and explaining positions. [...] Latinos, said Libre spokesman Ronald Najarro, ‘have the possibility of swinging who takes the Senate seat in Colorado.’ ‘We’re out here canvassing, trying to raise awareness of policies that don’t hinder economic growth,’ Najarro said.” [Washington Post, [11/4/14](#)]

i360

I360 IS A DATA SHOP OWNED BY FREEDOM PARTNERS AND HAS “A \$50 MILLION-PLUS BUDGET”

I360 Is Owned By Freedom Partners And Has “A \$50 Million-Plus Budget.” According to the Wall Street Journal, “Arkansas Senate candidate Rep. Tom Cotton and others went with products from i360, owned by Freedom Partners, financed in part by billionaires Charles and David Koch . It has a \$50 million-plus budget—three times Data Trust’s—and offers a range of products including access to a team of data scientists who search for trends and effective messages. With elections nearing, a cease-fire of sorts has taken hold. Freedom Partners and Data Trust have plans to share limited amounts of data.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/21/14](#)]

I360 Is Among The Data Shops That Have Partnered With DirecTV And Dish Network To Use Information About Their 20 Million Customers To Deliver Television Ads “Tailored To The Viewer.” According to The Switch blog on the Washington Post website, “DirecTV and Dish Network customers may notice something a little different this election season: Your television ads know who you are. The satellite television providers have partnered with Democratic and Republican data shops to harness information about their 20 million customers and deliver television ads tailored to the viewer. Likely to vote absentee? The ads will know. Undecided? They know that, too. The technology, known as ‘addressable advertising,’ is the latest front in a growing battle to reach voters. [...] ‘It doesn’t matter what you’re watching,’ explains Michael Palmer, president of i360, the conservative-learning firm that is part of the program. The ad waits until the television is being watched and inserts itself into an open ad slot.” [Switch via WashingtonPost.com, [8/22/14](#)]

Washington Post: “Democrats Are Extracting A Bit Of Glee From The Fact That Dish Network And DirecTV Opted To Partner With The Koch-Tied I360 Rather Than A Firm As Closely Aligned With The National Party.” According to The Switch blog on the Washington Post website, “Democrats are extracting a bit of glee from the fact that Dish Network and DirecTV opted to partner with the Koch-tied i360 rather than a firm as closely aligned with the national

I360 “EMBEDDED EXPERIMENTS” INTO CONSTITUENT OUTREACH IN COLORADO DURING THE 2014 MIDTERMS

I360 And AFP “Embedded Experiments” Into Constituent Outreach In Colorado During The 2014 Midterms.

According to Politico, “[i360 founder Michael] Palmer said i360 embeds experiments ‘into absolutely everything that we do.’ In Colorado, for instance, Americans for Prosperity — the most muscular part of the Koch network — worked with i360 to isolate 297,000 voters who were not likely to vote in 2014, but were likely to oppose the policies of Democratic Sen. Mark Udall, who wound up being defeated by GOP Rep. Cory Gardner.” [Politico, [12/8/14](#)]

- **I360 Divided Up The Colorado Voters Into “Treatment Groups” To Determine “Which Approach Was Most Efficient In Turning Out A Reluctant Voter.”** According to Politico, “Among the 297,000 voters, some got no contact at all from AFP. About 60,000 voters were broken into six ‘treatment groups’: One group got a knock on the door, plus a volunteer phone call and a mail piece. Another got door plus mail. Another got door only, and so forth. Within those groups, the messages varied. Now, as part of its midterm after-action review, i360 is figuring out which approach was most efficient in turning out a reluctant voter.” [Politico, [12/8/14](#)]

American Energy Alliance

American Energy Alliance Spent “More Than \$400,000 To Target U.S. Sen. Mark Udall Over The Keystone Pipeline Project.” According to the Denver Post, “The American Energy Alliance is spending more than \$400,000 to target U.S. Sen. Mark Udall over the Keystone pipeline project. ‘The simple truth: Americans needs jobs,’ a narrator says in a new ad that airs beginning [sic] Wednesday. ‘And the Keystone pipeline will create thousands of high-paying jobs.’” [Denver Post, [5/13/14](#)]

- **The Ad Aired On “Broadcast And Cable TV In The Denver And Colorado Springs Markets.”** According to the Denver Post, “Chris Warren with the American Energy Alliance, a 501c4 nonprofit organization that engages in grassroots public policy advocacy and debate concerning energy and environmental policies, said the ad buy is \$405,450. The 30-second spot will appear on broadcast and cable TV in the Denver and Colorado Springs markets between Wednesday and May 23.” [Denver Post, [5/13/14](#)]
- **The Ad Accused Udall Of “Siding With Washington Lobbyists And Special Interests.”** According to the Denver Post, “The political ad accuses Udall of ‘siding with Washington lobbyists and special interests to kill it,’ and says the project is backed by Republicans and Democrats, business and labor and a majority of Coloradans.” [Denver Post, [5/13/14](#)]

60 Plus Association

60 Plus Spent \$8,426 In Support Of Republican Senate Candidate Cory Gardner In The 2014 Midterm Elections.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, 60 plus spent \$8,426 in support of Republican Senate candidate Cory Gardner in the 2014 midterm elections. [OpenSecrets.org, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

60 Plus Spent \$11,632 In Opposition Of Democratic House Candidate John Salazar And \$6,670 In Opposition Of Democratic House Candidate Ed Perlmutter In The 2014 Midterm Elections. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, 60 plus spent \$11,632 in opposition of Democratic House candidate John Salazar and \$6,670 in opposition of Democratic House candidate Ed Perlmutter in the 2014 midterm elections. [OpenSecrets.org, accessed [7/8/15](#)]

60 Plus Ran Ads Thanking Rep. Mike Coffman And Asking Colorado Seniors “To Stand” With Him In The 2014 Election. According to a web post from 60 Plus, “Legendary entertainer and seniors advocate Pat Boone has recorded a message to voters on behalf of 6th District Colorado GOP Congressman Mike Coffman. Boone made the recording today in his capacity as spokesman for the national non-partisan senior citizen group, the 60 Plus Association, which has more than 7.2 million senior supporters nationally, including more than 33,000 in the Colorado’s 6th District. The recording can be heard here. The transcript — subject to an occasional Boone ad-lib — is below: Hi — This is Pat Boone. Yes, the Love Letters in the Sand guy, calling on behalf of the 60 Plus Association with an important message about Congressman Mike Coffman. After more than 20 years of working on behalf of America’s elderly, I can say that seniors have no truer friend in Washington than Mike Coffman. Mike Coffman is a man of his word, who delivered on his promise to protect Social Security and Medicare, and fight against Obamacare. In this important election, Colorado seniors need to stand with Mike Coffman, as he has stood with us. Pat Boone saying so long and God bless.” [60Plus.org, [10/30/14](#)]

THE KOCH AGENDA: 2014 COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE

Koch Industries And AFF Contributed A Combined \$800,000 To RAGA To Support GOP Colorado Attorney General Candidate Cynthia Coffman

The Republican Attorneys General Association Bought \$2.6 Million Of TV Advertising In Support Of The Republican Candidate For Colorado Attorney General, Cynthia Coffman, In July 2014. According to the Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “Add Cynthia Coffman to the list of politicians whose faces who will be dominating Colorado’s airwaves this fall: The Republican Attorneys General Association has reserved a stunning \$2.6 million TV buy to promote her candidacy.” [Denver Post, [7/30/14](#)]

- **Koch Industries Contributed \$130,315 To RAGA In The 2014 Election Cycle.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Koch Industries contributed \$130,315 to RAGA in 2014. [OpenSecrets.org, accessed [7/6/15](#)]
- **The American Future Fund Contributed \$680,000 in 2014.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the American Future Fund contributed \$680,000 to RAGA in 2014. [OpenSecrets.org, accessed [7/6/15](#)]
- **The American Future Fund “Received More Than 92 Percent Of Its 2012 Revenues” From Two Koch-Backed Organizations.** According to the Center for Responsive Politics, “American Future Fund, a politically active nonprofit based in Iowa that reported spending more than \$25 million in last year’s elections on ads and other communications benefiting Republicans, received more than 92 percent of its 2012 revenues from two organizations connected to Charles and David Koch. [...] The Center to Protect Patient Rights (CPPR), a political nonprofit that has served as something of an ATM for other groups and is run by someone who is part of the Kochs’ network of conservative operatives, gave AFF \$49.2 million last year. Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, also a 501(c) whose board members are all connected to the billionaire Koch brothers, chipped in \$13.6 million.” [OpenSecrets.org, [12/9/13](#)]

RAGA Released An Ad Supporting Republican Attorney General Candidate Cynthia Coffman As A Supporter Of TABOR. According to a Republican Attorneys General Association ad, “Cynthia Coffman is an experienced prosecutor who will defend the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and uphold our Constitution.” [Republican Attorneys General Association ad via YouTube, [10/17/14](#)]

GOP CANDIDATE CYNTHIA COFFMAN WAS SWORN IN AS COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL IN JANUARY 2015

GOP Candidate Cynthia Coffman Was Sworn In As Colorado Attorney General In January 2015. According to The Denver Post’s The Spot blog, “Republican Cynthia Coffman took the oath of office Tuesday and become Colorado’s next attorney general in a ceremony her husband viewed by looking at pictures sent to his congressional office in Washington.” [Denver Post, [1/14/15](#)]

Cynthia Coffman Supported Transferring Federal Land To States And Was Against The Endangered Species Act

Cynthia Coffman As AG Candidate: “I Think It Is Time That The Western Attorneys General Join Together And Fought Back Against The Federal Government And We Took Back That Land.” According to remarks from Cynthia Coffman when she was running for Attorney General of Colorado, “I’ve been many times to this [Western Attorneys General] conference. [...] We talk about the Endangered Species Act and how it is negatively impacting development in our states. We talk about hydraulic fracturing a lot because you can imagine right now. But I am going on a mission, this time, and that is to talk to Attorneys General who have taken a strong stance about federal lands. Because I think it is time that the Western Attorneys General join together and fought back against the federal government and we took back that land.” [Cynthia Coffman Remarks via YouTube.com, [7/20/14](#)]

Coffman As AG Candidate: The Endangered Species Act Is “Negatively Impacting Development In Our States.” According to remarks from Cynthia Coffman when she was running for Attorney General of Colorado, “I’ve been many times to this [Western Attorneys General] conference. [...] We talk about the Endangered Species Act and how it is negatively impacting development in our states.” [Cynthia Coffman Remarks via YouTube.com, [7/20/14](#)]

Kochs’ Support For Coffman Highlights Their Hypocrisy On Supporting Criminal Justice Reform

KOCH BROTHERS ANNOUNCED THEY WERE PUSHING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM...

Daily Beast: The Koch Brothers “Are Turning Their Focus To A New Mission: Galvanizing Conservatives To Pass Meaningful Criminal Justice Reform.” According to the Daily Beast, “Prepare for the softer side of Charles and David Koch. The libertarian-leaning billionaires who funded an endless stream of anti-Obamacare ads against Democratic candidates in 2014 are turning their focus to a new mission: galvanizing conservatives to pass meaningful criminal justice reform.” [Daily Beast, [1/13/15](#)]

Atlantic: The Koch’s Criminal Justice Push “Coincides With A New PR Push To Show Koch Industries In A Friendlier Light... Prompting The Kochs’ Critics To Suspect A Whitewash.” According to the Atlantic, “But the Kochs' advocacy has become more vocal in recent months, from public statements to new partnerships with such groups as Families Against Mandatory Minimums, the American Civil Liberties Union, and even the liberal Center for American Progress. The bid for more attention for the reform effort has received overwhelmingly positive attention, and coincides with a new PR push to show Koch Industries in a friendlier light, including a ‘We Are Koch’ national television campaign that casts the company as heartland job creators—prompting the Kochs' critics to suspect a whitewash. After all, the investment in criminal-justice reform pales in comparison to the hundreds of millions the Kochs and their donor network have spent electing Republicans, many of whom don't share their views on civil liberties, [*Koch Brothers Exposed* Director Robert] Greenwald noted. ‘Certainly the scales tip against the impact of this, except from the press point of view,’ he said of the reform push.” [Atlantic, [3/3/15](#)]

Daily Beast: “The Kochs Are Aware That Pursuing Criminal Justice Reform Will Make Them Appear Less Political.” According to the Daily Beast, “The Kochs are aware that pursuing criminal justice reform will make them appear less political. After all, striking down mandatory minimums and slamming sentencing disparities has traditionally been a purview of the left.” [Daily Beast, [1/13/15](#)]

Daily Beast: “Five Koch Staffers Work Full- Or Part-Time On Criminal Justice Issues.” According to the Daily Beast, “Through their foundation and related entities, five Koch staffers work full- or part-time on criminal justice issues. But they could not pledge that the amount spent on criminal justice reform in 2015 would definitely exceed that of previous years. ‘We can confirm it will be in the same range as previous years,’ a Koch spokesperson said.” [Daily Beast, [1/13/15](#)]

...YET THE WOMAN THEY SUPPORTED FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS AGAINST LEGALIZING MARIJUANA, A REFORM THAT TWO KOCH-FUNDED GROUPS HAVE PUSHED TO IMPROVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

As Attorney General Of Colorado, Cynthia Coffman Denounced Colorado’s Marijuana Legalization Laws

Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman “Denounced” Colorado's Marijuana Legalization Laws. According to U.S. News and World Report, “The lawyer charged with defending Colorado's marijuana legalization laws denounced them Monday. ‘It’s not worth it,’ Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman told dozens of fellow state attorneys general at a conference in the nation's capital, referring to \$76 million in taxes and fees collected from pot sales last year. The recently inaugurated Republican rebuked legalization advocates’ long-standing argument that regulating sales will eliminate the black market for marijuana and associated criminal activity.” [U.S. News and World Report, [2/23/15](#)]

Cato Institute Director Of Project On Criminal Justice Argued That Legalizing Marijuana Would Help Criminal Justice Reform

Cato Institute Director Of Project On Criminal Justice Tim Lynch: “As The Legal Status Of Marijuana Changes, There Will Be Sharp Reductions In The Number Of Searches, Arrests, Detentions And Prisoners.” According to a web post by CATO Institute Director Of Project On Criminal Justice Tim Lynch for the CATO Institute’s website, “The most dramatic change in our criminal justice system has been the legalization of marijuana. Too many news reports miss the unfolding impact of this because it is happening in small spurts. Unfortunately, news reports mostly marvel at the pot shops that have opened in Colorado and Washington. Consider this: More than 20 million Americans use marijuana regularly. Millions more use it occasionally. From a criminal justice perspective, it is astonishing that, in the eyes of the law, so many people are viewed as criminals. As the legal status of marijuana changes, there will be sharp reductions in the number of searches, arrests, detentions and prisoners.” [Tim Lynch – CATO.org, [2/9/15](#)]

Lynch: “More Than 20 Million Americans Use Marijuana Regularly... From A Criminal Justice Perspective, It Is Astonishing That, In The Eyes Of The Law, So Many People Are Viewed As Criminals.” According to a web post by

CATO Institute Director Of Project On Criminal Justice Tim Lynch for the CATO Institute's website, "The most dramatic change in our criminal justice system has been the legalization of marijuana. Too many news reports miss the unfolding impact of this because it is happening in small spurts. Unfortunately, news reports mostly marvel at the pot shops that have opened in Colorado and Washington. Consider this: More than 20 million Americans use marijuana regularly. Millions more use it occasionally. From a criminal justice perspective, it is astonishing that, in the eyes of the law, so many people are viewed as criminals. As the legal status of marijuana changes, there will be sharp reductions in the number of searches, arrests, detentions and prisoners." [Tim Lynch – CATO.org, [2/9/15](#)]

Cato Institute Is Part Of The Koch Brothers' Network

The Cato Institute Was Founded By Charles G. Koch And Ed Crane. According to the Cato Institute 25th Annual Report, "When a young California investment manager, Ed Crane, spent 1976 in Washington, he noticed how much influence a few think tanks had despite their relatively small budgets. He thought there ought to be a public policy research organization, or 'think tank,' dedicated to the American principles of liberty and limited government. He was willing to start one, but only if he didn't have to live in Washington. When he returned to San Francisco, he joined the Kansas industrialist Charles G. Koch to set up the Cato Institute, which opened its doors in January 1977." [Cato Institute 25th Annual Report, [2001](#)]

GenOpp Fought To Get A Man Out Of Prison After He Was Given A Mandatory Sentence Of 55 Years In Jail For Selling Marijuana

Generation Opportunity Launched A Campaign To Target "The Overcriminalization Of Non-Violent Crime, Mandatory Minimum Laws, And Helping Criminals Who Have Served Their Sentences Reintegrate Into Society." According to The Daily Beast, "The new [GenOpp] campaign will target the overcriminalization of non-violent crime, mandatory minimum laws, and helping criminals who have served their sentences reintegrate into society." [Daily Beast, [2/3/15](#)]

GenOpp Fought To Get Weldon Angelos, A Father Of Two, Out Of Prison After He Was Given A Mandatory Sentence Of 55 Years In Jail For Selling Pot. According to The Daily Beast, "Weldon Angelos could have hijacked a plane and spent less time in jail. But due to mandatory sentencing laws, the father of two was sentenced to 55 years in jail for selling pot – a term so long even the judge who gave it to him protested its injustice. A group backed by the Koch brothers agrees, and is now fighting to get him out of prison. [...] The case is being highlighted by Koch-backed group Generation Opportunity, which targets millennials, [sic] in a broader campaign to press for criminal justice reforms this year." [Daily Beast, [2/3/15](#)]

GenOpp Is Part Of The Koch Brothers' Network

The Atlantic: Generation Opportunity Is "Part Of The Billionaire Koch Brothers-Funded Empire Of Independent Groups Seeking To Influence Public Policy In A More Free-Market Direction." According to The Atlantic, "Both Generation Opportunity and Americans for Prosperity are part of the billionaire Koch brothers-funded empire of independent groups seeking to influence public policy in a more free-market direction." [The Atlantic, [9/19/13](#)]

BILL KOCH ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED A FORMER BUSINESS ASSOCIATE IN COLORADO AND AGREED TO PAY AN UNDISCLOSED SETTLEMENT TO DISMISS THE CASE

In 2012, Bill Koch's Former Oxbow Carbon Employee Kirby Martensen Filed A Federal Lawsuit Against Koch Accusing Koch And His Agents Of Kidnapping Him. According to Forbes, "A former employee of Oxbow Carbon, a company owned by billionaire William Koch, has filed suit accusing the tycoon and his agents of kidnapping him. Kirby Martensen claims in his lawsuit, filed October 11 in the Northern District of California, that he was interrogated for hours at Bear Ranch, a replica of an old wild west town that Koch has built outside of Aspen, Colo." [Forbes.com, [10/14/12](#)]

Martensen Claimed In His Lawsuit That He Was Interrogated For Hours At Koch's Replica Of An Old Wild West Town Outside Of Aspen, Colorado. According to Forbes, "Kirby Martensen claims in his lawsuit, filed October 11 in the

Northern District of California, that he was interrogated for hours at Bear Ranch, a replica of an old wild west town that Koch has built outside of Aspen, Colo.” [Forbes.com, [10/14/12](#)]

Bill Koch Hired Two Off-Duty Florida Police Officers To Interrogate Martensen. According to The Aspen Times, “But [Bill] Koch had other plans than just a business meeting, the suit said. After a two-day tour of Koch’s 19th-century-style Western town, Martensen was interrogated by two of Koch’s agents — who were off-duty Florida police officers — who accused him of trying to defraud the energy company Oxbow and Koch out of hundreds of millions of dollars. Martensen also was alleged to have taken bribes from competitors of Oxbow.” [Aspen Times, [6/7/15](#)]

Bill Koch’s Oxbow Said It Investigated Kirby Martensen “For Defrauding Oxbow, Accepting Bribes And Diverting Business To Competitors.” According to Forbes, “[Bill] Koch of course has his own take. In a statement, Oxbow says it did investigate [Kirby] Martensen for defrauding Oxbow, accepting bribes and diverting business to competitors.” [Forbes.com, [10/14/12](#)]

- **Martensen’s Suit Claimed He Was “Retaliated Against Because He Called Out The Company’s Alleged Scheme To Dodge Paying \$200 Million In Federal Taxes With Its Asian Trading Business.”** According to The Aspen Times, “[Kirby] Martensen’s suit says he didn’t take any bribes but instead was retaliated against because he called out the company’s alleged scheme to dodge paying \$200 million in federal taxes with its Asian trading business.” [Aspen Times, [6/7/15](#)]

Martensen’s Suit Alleged He Had To Wait In A Cabin For Three Hours After Being Interrogated And “Was Warned That A Sheriff’s Deputy Was On The Site To Make Sure He Didn’t Leave.” According to The Aspen Times, “After the interrogation, [Bill] Koch’s agents escorted him to an SUV, served him with termination papers and told Martensen he would be taken to Aspen, the suit claims. But first, [Kirby] Martensen had to wait in a cabin for three hours and was warned that a sheriff’s deputy was on the site to make sure he didn’t leave, the suit says.” [Aspen Times, [6/7/15](#)]

Martensen Claimed “After His Interrogation He Was Held In An SUV And Driven To A Small Airport Outside Of Denver Instead Of To The Aspen Airport As He Had Requested.” According to Forbes, “[Kirby] Martensen claims that after interrogation he was held in an SUV and driven to a small airport outside of Denver instead of to the Aspen airport as he had requested.” [Forbes.com, [10/14/12](#)]

Koch’s Attorneys Argued That The Kidnapping Claim Was Invalid Because When They Were At A 7-Eleven En Route To Denver, Martensen Did Not Try To Flee Or Call 911. According to Forbes, “Koch’s attorneys argued that the kidnapping claim was invalid because when they were at the 7-Eleven in Carbondale — where they stopped en route to Denver — [Kirby] Martensen was allowed to go in the store at his leisure. Martensen could have made a cellphone call to 911 or even fled, they claimed.” [Forbes.com, [10/14/12](#)]

- **Martensen Said He Did Not Try To Escape Or Call 911 Because He Thought He Was Under Arrest At The Time.** According to Forbes, “Koch’s attorneys argued that the kidnapping claim was invalid because when they were at the 7-Eleven in Carbondale — where they stopped en route to Denver — [Kirby] Martensen was allowed to go in the store at his leisure. Martensen could have made a cellphone call to 911 or even fled, they claimed. During a Sept. 3, 2012, deposition, Martensen explained that he thought he was under arrest at the time.” [Forbes.com, [10/14/12](#)]

Both Parties In The Kidnapping Lawsuit Against Bill Koch Agreed To Dismiss The Case After Reaching An Undisclosed Settlement Five Months Before The Scheduled November 2015 Jury Trial. According to The Aspen Times, “A federal lawsuit that made kidnapping allegations against Bill Koch, owner of the Castle Creek Road property that is on the market for \$100 million, has been dismissed. U.S. District Court Judge Robert E. Blackburn threw out the case Wednesday after parties on both sides agreed to have it dismissed, according to court records. The dismissal, entered in Denver federal court, notes that both sides will ‘bear their own attorney fees, costs and expenses, except as otherwise agreed among the parties.’ The suit was dismissed with prejudice, which means the claims cannot be filed again. Attorneys on both sides did not respond to messages seeking details of the settlement, which comes five months before the scheduled Nov. 2 jury trial.” [Aspen Times, [6/7/15](#)]