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AGENDA SET FOR LEGISLATIVE TRIP

Chamber members will be traveling to the State Capitol in Denver on March 6-7 for two days of political networking, dialogue and socializing with members of the General Assembly. We will depart Grand Junction on Thursday morning and will return on Friday afternoon. We have a great line-up of speaker scheduled to address our group in the Old Supreme Court Chambers:

- **Colorado Governor Bill Ritter**
- **Don Elliman**, Executive Director, Office of Economic Development/International Trade
- **Harris Sherman**, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
- **Andrew Romanoff**, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- **Russ George**, Executive Director, Department of Transportation
- **Joe Blake**, President, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Bill Tracking Report

The Chamber's Bill Tracking Report is a weekly update of legislation from the current session and the Chamber's position on specific legislation. Click [here](#).

Following Tradition, we will dine with members of the General Assembly (Invited) at the Broker Restaurant in downtown Denver. Registrations are still being offered for this event at \$325 per person/single occupancy or \$285 per person/double occupancy. Registration includes transportation, meals and lodging. *Space is Limited*. Registration forms were included in the February newsletter; or, register by contacting Ryan at rlongman@gjchamber.org or by calling 263-2917.

Upcoming Chamber Activity

Feb. 12 - Legislative Videoconference

Feb. 13 - Energy Briefing

CAPITOL UPDATE

- A proposal that would have let employees opt out of union-shop workplaces--potentially boosting Colorado as a draw for new employers--was shot down Monday by the Senate State,

Feb. 22 - Energy Expo

Feb. 26 - Legislative
Videoconference

Veterans, & Military Affairs committee on a party-line vote. [SB 56](#) would have made it illegal for any union to force employees to become a member or pay union dues without their permission. The measure was killed 3-2 on a party line vote. Currently, Colorado workers aren't required to pay union dues, but so-called "union security" language is allowed in contracts between unions and employers that can require union membership and dues or "equivalency fees" that must be paid by non-members. The Chamber generally supports right-to-work legislation. Source: [Colorado Senate News](#)

- The Chamber succeeded in its efforts to defeat [HB-1149](#), a bill that would have allowed the legislature to intervene in local curriculum decisions – the Chamber supports local control of school districts. The bill would have allowed students to opt out of classroom dissections. Opposition of this bill didn't necessarily have anything to do with dissections, but the usurping of local control of districts and their ability to oversee issues and complaint concerning their respective district.
- A Republican bill that would double the number of officers in the Colorado State Patrol Immigration Enforcement Unit won unanimous approval today in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sponsors of [SB-87](#), Sen. Ted Harvey and Rep. Steve King, say the expansion--from 24 to 48 members--is necessary due to the positive results the unit achieved in less than its first six months of operation. Harvey and King also say the state no longer can afford to wait for federal authorities to do their job. Source: [Colorado Senate News](#)

GREEN TAX CREDITS - TOPIC OF NEXT ENERGY BRIEFING

The Chamber's Energy Briefing Series continues next Wednesday, Feb. 13 with an informative presentation on green tax credits available for business owners. Craig Severance, CPA with Accounting & Benefit Solutions, will be on hand to discuss some of the tax credit and accounting practices businesses can implement in an effort to support enviro-friendly business practices while benefiting from the cost savings as well. Also in February, the Chamber will join others in hosting the third annual [Energy Forum & Expo](#) from 9am-4pm on February 22 at Two Rivers Convention Center.

2007 ECONOMIC CENSUS DUE TUESDAY

If yours is one of the 2,700 businesses in the Grand Junction Area that received a 2007 Economic Census form from the U.S. Census Bureau late last year, remember to fill it out! The forms ask for basic information like your location, employment, payroll, and sales by type of product or service. Businesses that receive a form are required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code) to respond. And the deadline is next Tuesday, February 12th. Make sure to return the forms if you have not already done so.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS VIDEOCONFERENCE SERIES

The [Grand Junction Area Realtors Association](#) and [Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.](#) will co-sponsor the Chamber's next legislative videoconference, scheduled for Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Western Colorado Community College Campus in Building B, Room 151. Attendance has been stellar thus far and we thank our committee members and community leaders for their input and support.

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