

A Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Update



Legislative Links

January 20, 2009

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Wondering which bills have been introduced so far?

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Upcoming Chamber activity

CHAMBER OPPOSES CARBON MONOXIDE BILL

At its first meeting of the year the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee took action on several bills introduced at the legislature including one that has the media and Coloradans talking. The Chamber voted to oppose [HB1091](#) which would require certain homes and rental properties to have carbon monoxide detectors. The Chamber opposed a similar bill last year that was ultimately killed due to questions about enforcement and responsibility. While the Chamber recognizes the importance and sensitivity of the subject at hand, the responsibility and cost should not fall on builders and home sellers. Legislators would be better off backing private fundraising efforts to educate people on the use of the devices and purchase them for those who cant afford them.

BILL PROPOSES MANDATES FOR PARENTAL LEAVE

The Chamber expresses its strong opposition this week to a bill sponsored by Speaker of the House Terrance Carroll (D) Denver that seeks to require companies with ten or more employees to grant 40 hours of unpaid leave during the academic year to working parents to attend academic activities at their children's school. With economic stability and job growth being touted as top priorities of this legislative session by the Governor and legislators, this bill would have the opposite effect. [House Bill 1057](#) creates a mandate on business which in turn creates higher operational costs and discourages job creation and job retention. Meanwhile, economic development officials warn that states with such mandates are not attractive to companies seeking new sites to relocate. The bill is up for hearing in the House Education Committee this Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the Capitol.

January 27 - Legislative Videoconference

January 27 - Business After Hours DoubleTree Hotel

January 28 - Energy Briefing ENREL - Renewable

January 30 - Annual Banquet

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TACKLES TRANSPORTATION

Since the convening of the Colorado General Assembly, both Republicans and Democrats have presented plans to fix the state's failing transportation system. Governor Bill Ritter and Democratic lawmakers recently revealed their Colorado [FASTER](#) (Funding Advancement for Surface Transportation & Economic Recovery) plan to fix the state's ailing roads and bridges; a plan that includes ideas such as fee hikes, a new government agency to consider tolling, issuing bonds, and a pilot project for charging motorists based on miles traveled. The GOP proposed a [plan](#) early in the session suggesting leveraging against the value of the state's buildings to sell bonds to fix roads and bridges. Both plans are being touted as a way to jumpstart the state's sagging economy, saving jobs and paying for needed road and bridge projects. The Chamber will carefully consider all aspects of these and other plans as we look to take positions on transportation related bills and make our recommendations.

CHAMBER PREPARES FOR CANDIDATE FORUM

The Chamber's 2009 City Council Candidate Forum is set for Wednesday, February 11, 7:30 a.m. at the Redlands Community Center. Candidates running for Districts A, D, E and an At-Large seat have been invited to brief chamber members on their ideas for city council and answer questions from the Chamber and its members. Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Grand Junction Area Realtors Association, Western Colorado Contractors Association and Home Builders Association of Northwestern Colorado are sponsoring the event. Registration for this event is \$15 and includes hot breakfast. Click [here](#) to register or contact Ryan Longman at 970-263-2917.

NEXT VIDEOCONFERENCE JANUARY 27

The Chamber's Videoconference Series continues next Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 a.m. in the [New Classroom Building](#) at Mesa State College. The New Classroom Building is located on the corner of Houston Avenue and Elm Avenue and free parking for these events will be available in lot G9, on the same street corner. A full schedule of videoconferences can be viewed on the Chamber Web site or by clicking [here](#). Members of the Governmental Affairs Committee should forward suggestions for the agenda to Ryan at rlongman@gjchamber.org.

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 Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, 360 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
 970-242-3214 | fax: 970-242-3694 | info@gjchamber.org | www.gjchamber.org

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