

TOURISM, RESORTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOURISM

County officials recognize that tourism plays an important role in the economies of counties around the state. County officials are sensitive to the fact that tourism in Colorado takes many forms, including winter recreation in the mountain resort communities, year-round recreation in the state's parks, waters, and historic and natural areas; conference and convention business; attendance at fairs and trade shows; visual and performing arts activities; tourism in gaming towns; and attendance at the wide variety of athletic and sporting events that take place throughout Colorado. CCI believes that these diverse recreation and tourism opportunities set Colorado apart from other states. The issues and needs associated with each kind of tourism encompass numerous topics, including tax policy, land use, immigration, affordable housing, and transportation. Furthermore, the issues of one type of tourism are not always common to all others.

CCI believes there should be a permanent, dedicated revenue source for state tourism promotion.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In addition to its role as a primary economic driver, commissioners recognize that tourism and recreational opportunities also contribute to business relocation decisions and other economic development opportunities.

CCI supports programs assisting communities with economic development and sustainable economies. Enterprise zones, business incentives and credits, development grants and programs, appropriately trained employees, economic development councils and appropriate educational opportunities are crucial to the success of county economies.

CCI supports tourism-related economic development. Sound approaches to tourism can lead to job growth, increased revenues and economic diversification. Small scale (cottage) industries offer an economic base to small resort/tourist communities. Impacts from tourist related development must be addressed at the time of development to prevent unforeseen and unacceptable costs to the local taxpayers.

Tourism flourishes in attractive communities. CCI supports efforts that respect county authority while fostering community beautification and enhancement. Protection of the natural, scenic, cultural, educational, and historical environments is key to the success of a tourist/resort community.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Tourism and resort-oriented counties often offer low paying jobs and a high cost of living. A stable and sustainable community depends on the financial ability of those who support, volunteer, study, recreate, or work in the community to live in that community. Recognizing this, CCI supports community-backed affordable housing efforts. CCI supports efforts to attain stable local, state, and federal funding and endorses private sector involvement, wherever possible, in cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies. CCI also supports the appointment of county commissioners to housing related boards in Colorado, including the Colorado Housing Board, the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority Board and the Private Activity Bond Allocation Committee.

The impacts on a resort community for housing, transportation, road maintenance, social services, health and human services, emergency services (police, sheriff, ambulance, fire, hospital emergency, etc.) often rest in communities and jurisdictions outside the resort community itself. Therefore, CCI supports attempts to develop revenue sharing programs that help to mitigate the impacts of resort/tourism activities.

TRANSIT

Public transportation for visitors and guests in a tourist/resort community provides an essential service to those guests while protecting the qualities of life those visitors are seeking clean air; quiet, traffic free environment; pedestrian friendly atmosphere; and accessibility.

CCI recognizes trails as recreational needs, commuter routes and a component of community transit needs.

Public transit is essential for those communities that depend on a transient or non-local work force. CCI supports legislation and programs that address and financially support efforts to provide affordable, safe and efficient public transportation in tourist/resort communities.

CCI supports development of a highspeed rail network within Colorado and designation of a rocky mountain high speed rail corridor.

RECREATION

CCI endorses recreational uses consistent with community goals and recognizes the important role county government has in promoting and supporting recreational activities within their communities. CCI believes that recreational activities and their supportive services should receive adequate public funding.

CCI supports sustainable recreation. Encouraging a balanced approach, CCI supports recreational opportunities that consider a community's economy and environment. Resources should be sufficient to support recreational activities while maintaining the integrity of natural processes. CCI supports projects and programs that further sustainable recreation while protecting the environment on which the economy depends (fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, biking, off-road vehicles, etc.).

WORK FORCE

CCI recognizes the challenge counties face regarding their commitment to a stable, successful, yet often temporary workforce, including demands on housing, transportation, social services, education, childcare, law enforcement, emergency services and health and human services. CCI supports mechanisms and programs that support or mitigate the costs related to these impacts.

Counties impacted by the enforcement of federal and state immigration laws need federal and state support and should be reimbursed for their local law enforcement expenditures. CCI supports state and federal initiatives that clarify immigration issues and provide solutions to today's immigration challenges.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT IMPLEMENTATION

The federal “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014” (WIOA) requires increased local input in developing the state plan for workforce development centers and allows increased local control over the implementation of such plan. The purposes of WIOA are to establish a central, coordinated delivery of services at the local or regional level providing job training, adult education and literacy programs and services through a more streamlined and flexible workforce development system. WIOA allows local governments increased responsibility for the administration of the workforce program.

Further, CCI recognizes and fully supports the major purpose and goal of WIOA, which is to facilitate and promote partnerships with the private sector and employers who play a primary role in the successful implementation of WIOA.

In order to achieve successful implementation of WIOA in Colorado, CCI supports the following:

- The local elected official (LEO) shall maintain a strong role in all phases and levels of WIOA implementation;
- The elimination of the current fragmentation of programs and coordination of such programs at the state and local level;
- The establishment of a local delivery model with local flexibility in delivering and operating employment and training services; and
- Delivery of such services within local areas developed by and at the option of local governments.

CCI supports a workforce system under WIOA in Colorado that provides counties with the maximum flexibility in meeting WIOA requirements and assures decision-making at the local level. CCI supports a workforce system allowing for the creation of local workforce boards to oversee the network.

CCI supports local control throughout the establishment and implementation WIOA.

LIMITED GAMING

CCI supports Colorado's constitutional provisions on limited gaming. Decisions by the Limited Gaming Control Commission should continue to provide appropriate and adequate support for limited gaming communities and contiguous communities to mitigate the direct impacts on those communities created by the growth and development of the gaming industry.

FEDERAL LANDS

Recognizing that Colorado’s federal lands provide the amenities that support tourist/resort communities as back country, wilderness or ski areas, CCI supports legislation and appropriation of funds to compensate those communities for the loss of those lands on the county’s tax rolls. CCI supports maximizing and fully appropriating federal payments and taxes due to Colorado counties related to the presence of federal property. CCI supports adequate and appropriate payment in lieu of taxes to those impacted communities. CCI supports programs that provide assistance to those communities that exist at the edge of the public lands, that must accommodate the visitors drawn to that public land, but that may not directly benefit from PILT or other already designated funds. In counties where the presence of federal lands (whether BLM, U.S. Forest Service, national park, wilderness, or otherwise) enhance the opportunity for tourism and recreation, CCI supports federal agencies scoping and processing local government requirements for creation or enhancements of recreational amenities. Land swaps involving federal lands should be made within the affected

county where feasible and should always provide adequate compensation of the affected entities. Federal agencies should provide adequate funding for the operation and management of federal lands so the burden does not fall to communities.