



Please vote YES on HB 14-1007

County Authority to Prohibit Burning and Fireworks

Sponsor: Rep. Hamner

Colorado has entered a time of severe drought and extreme fire danger. The fire seasons of 2012 and 2013 were some of the most destructive in our state's history. As the drought continues and counties work to mitigate fire danger across the state, additional measures are needed to protect life and property in Colorado communities. Additional clarification is needed with respect to the extent of county statutory powers to prohibit fires and the authority to place bans on personal fireworks need to be enhanced.

HB14-1007 clarifies for county attorneys around the state that county commissioners may restrict agricultural burning during periods of extreme fire hazard. Conducting agricultural burning (irrigation ditches, etc.) during red flag warnings is incredibly dangerous, and counties need clear authority to restrict these fires.

HB14-1007 also expands the ability of county commissioners to ban the sale, use and possession of personal fireworks. Currently, the board of county commissioners can ban personal fireworks altogether EXCEPT from May to mid-July. HB 1007 allows counties to go ahead and ban fireworks year-round.

HB 1007 was the result of months of dialogue last year in the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control's Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Matters Advisory Committee and was forwarded by that legislative committee for introduction this session.

Decisions on banning agricultural burns (or any open fires, for that matter) and fireworks are **serious** matters and counties don't enact these bans on burning and fireworks without extensive discussion and studying the fire danger in their areas and weighing the threat against possible intrusion on personal liberties. HB 1007 entrusts our boards of county commissioners with making the right call and ensuring the safety of our citizens and the communities they live in.

We ask for your YES vote on HB 14-1007