

The 2010 Colorado Legislative Session Overview
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Now that the Colorado Legislative Session 2010 has come to a close many of our members are asking: "Now what? And how do these new laws affect us?"

As we look back, this was an extremely difficult session for the business community and the state's business climate. With the state's severe economic downturn and the session's challenging political climate, the Chamber community was forced, as a whole, to play defense to protect employers and jobs. Were it not for key partnerships with other chambers, business organizations and the State Chamber coming together, the result of this session could have been much worse for the business community.

There is an overall disappointment with the Rifle Chamber's Government Affairs Committee that more was not done in the legislature to help employers retain workers and create jobs, and lay the foundation for Colorado's economic recovery. Recognizing that a steep decline in state revenues due to the recession was inevitable, we were disappointed that raising taxes on business to the tune of \$231.3 million was part of the answer, according to the legislature. The Government Affairs Committee and the Chamber Board feel that putting additional cost burdens on companies is not the answer to future economic recovery and job growth.

While the legislature touted job creation as their number one priority...what Colorado businesses received was just the opposite. It resulted in the increase of the cost of doing business, causing economic uncertainty, and will most likely result in costing much needed jobs. Although many of these anti-business bills passed, we also had some success with killing some of the proposed bills that would eliminate or sunset tax credits and exemptions.

In the months ahead, the Chamber and the Government Affairs Committee will continue to let our legislators know that the answer to economic recovery lies within our business community. We will do our best to help develop and/or support proposals that reduce the cost of doing business and improve our regulatory and legal climates.

If the Legislature considers more tax changes in its 2011 session however, we will continue to oppose those bills that simply raise the cost of doing business and we will support those that would help employers create jobs and be more competitive in the global economy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee for 2010 for their hard work and dedication:

Jace Braun, Bruce Camiletti, Tom Slappey, Jeff Odor, Jim Voorheis, Joy Wentzel, Justin Hale, Ben Green, Larry McCown, Scott Becker, Scott Holm, Susan Nichols Alvis, Sher Long, Tami Sours, and Theresa Hamilton.

I would also like to thank the Chamber Board for their commitment to supporting and acting on the Chamber's advocacy efforts on behalf of the local business community.