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2012 Legislative Agenda

The Green Industries of Colorado is an alliance of eight trade associations representing all facets of the horticulture and landscape industries. GreenCO members are committed to water conservation and industry-wide best management practices as a way of doing business. We provide expert advice on how to select and properly care for plants and landscapes.

GreenCO is the voice for more than 1500 small businesses and their 35,000 employees statewide. The green industry contributes more than \$2 billion to Colorado's economy.

For more information, visit www.greenco.org

GreenCO member associations

ASLA Colorado
Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado
Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association
Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals
Colorado Weed Management Association
Garden Centers of Colorado
International Association of Arboriculture, Rocky Mountain Chapter
Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association

2012 GreenCO Legislative Policy Positions

Budget and Regulatory Reform

- Performance based budgeting processes are needed for all state programs and agencies. There should be better standards for program oversight, benefits and overall effectiveness.
- The state should set spending priorities that allow existing revenues to be invested in higher education, job training, transportation and state infrastructure projects.
- GreenCO opposes burdensome regulation. The state should create a process to review and eliminate regulations that are outdated, overreaching or act as barriers to economic development.

Workers' Compensation Reform

- GreenCO opposes changes to the workers' compensation system that will damage the current system, increase costs or make it less competitive. A stable work comp system is key to maintaining the state's economic viability.
- The state must ensure that the privatization of Pinnacol provides policyholders clear and substantial benefits, while protecting the current model without unnecessary rate increases.

Water

- GreenCO supports sustainable, conservation minded principles for both indoor and outdoor use and should include the use of industry Best Management Practices.
- Water quality projects and additional storage capacity must be a state budget priority.
- GreenCO supports the authority of the state water engineer and the protection of water rights statewide.

Water, continued

- GreenCO supports the three interim water committee bills related to well depletions and the Denver aquifer, the consolidation of cash funds administered by the Division of Water Resources, and the reissuance of lost share certificates in mutual ditch companies. As the bills move through the legislature, we will work with the appropriate committees on the details.

Business and Private Sector Job Creation

- Jobs and the economy are the key issues for Colorado. GreenCO will support initiatives that will create jobs, grow the economy and enhance competitiveness.
- The state should create a business-friendly environment; there must be no new fees or mandates.
- Colorado should utilize funds from the performance based budget process to invest in statewide infrastructure, such as transportation, state buildings, water projects and higher education.
- Use the Governor's economic development concepts to seed key projects that will stimulate growth and job retention.

Economic Development

- The state must utilize existing tax credits and other incentives to create new ways that encourage expansion and equipment purchases.
- Colorado should reduce business costs and eliminate the barriers that exist in recruiting new firms to our state.
- The state should streamline various government reporting processes to reduce private sector costs.
- Colorado must embrace policies that stabilize the demands on businesses to foster greater optimism.