

**Your Metro North Chamber of Commerce (MNCC) is The Premier Business Voice for the Metro North region. Metro North Chamber of Commerce Represents:**

Over 900 businesses | 13 cities | 3 school districts  
Largest community college system in state | Over 150,000 votes through our membership

The Business and Governmental Affairs (BGA) Committee serves as an advocate for business in the Metro North region on national, state, and local levels. Comprised of a group of respected business and community leaders, BGA sets policies for Your Chamber on key issues such as: Transportation, Education, Energy, Economic Development, Workforce Development and Health Care.

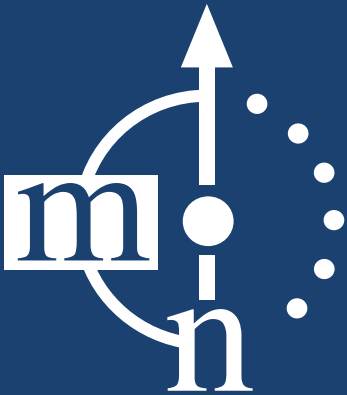


**BGA Contact Information**

**Troy Whitmore** | United Power – Chair of BGA  
[twhitmore@unitedpower.com](mailto:twhitmore@unitedpower.com) | 303.637.1207  
**Brad Harvey** | Horizons North Credit Union - Chairman of Board  
[bradh@hncu.org](mailto:bradh@hncu.org) | 720.872.8600  
**Steve Caulk** | ProConnect Public Relations - Co-Chair BGA  
[srcaulk@proconnectpr.com](mailto:srcaulk@proconnectpr.com) | 303.410.4971  
**RJ Hicks** | Hicks & Associates - Chamber Lobbyist  
[lobby@lobbyco.com](mailto:lobby@lobbyco.com) | 303.916.4414  
**Shiley Johnson** | Director of Policy and Information  
[shiley@metronorthchamber.com](mailto:shiley@metronorthchamber.com) | 720.259.2431

# METRO NORTH CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ENERGY    TRANSPORTATION    ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT    REGULATION



2013 Legislative Priorities

14583 Orchard Parkway, Suite 300 - Westminster, CO 80023

P: 303.288.1000 F: 303.227.1050

[www.MetroNorthChamber.com](http://www.MetroNorthChamber.com)

Major Chamber Investors



*The Metro North Chamber of Commerce.....Your Regional Business Powerhouse!*

## 2013 METRO NORTH CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Metro North Chamber of Commerce supports ideas and strategies that will stabilize Colorado's business environment, expand economic opportunities, and promote healthy, private-sector job growth. Colorado's legislative economists project growth in state revenues that we have not seen in recent years. This optimism presents unique opportunities for the 2013 Legislative Session to advance the Colorado economy and keep our state on track to recovery. As such, the Metro North Chamber of Commerce urges all parties in the Colorado Legislature to collaborate on policies in four important categories: Transportation and Infrastructure, the Colorado Energy Economy, Economic Development, and a Stable Regulatory Environment. Investment in these priorities will continue to grow our local and state economies.

### TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Metro North Chamber supports investment in Colorado's infrastructure because it stimulates primary job growth, lays the foundation for economic development opportunities, and ensures a promising future for our communities. The Metro North Chamber supports ideas and policies that fund the maintenance and improvement of Colorado's infrastructure.

Metro North Chamber Recommendations:

1. Preserve the integrity of the Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) to ensure all funds generated are solely used to fund transportation.
2. Support and prioritize transportation projects that relieve highway congestion in an ongoing manner.
3. Support and encourage innovative solutions that address funding models for transportation and infrastructure projects.
4. Identify and support opportunities to create funding solutions for water storage facilities and infrastructure critical to our future needs.

### COLORADO ENERGY ECONOMY

The Colorado Energy Economy presents unique opportunities to enhance our economic competitiveness and create a sustainable energy portfolio. The Metro North Chamber supports an equitable environment that both encourages growth of existing energy operations and recruits new energy opportunities. The Colorado Legislature must work to enhance the energy economy to ensure a fair regulatory environment that protects our quality of life. At the same time, the legislature must avoid over-burdening our business community.

Metro North Chamber Recommendations:

1. Support revenue-based tax credit initiatives that encourage new energy development and legitimize alternative energy as a viable energy resource.
2. Support statewide efforts in clean coal, natural gas, wind, solar productivity and all other categories that have made Colorado such a diverse state for energy growth.
3. If deemed necessary, support sensible spacing and setback regulations that enable and encourage safe development of Colorado hydraulic fracturing operations.
4. Support increased energy efficiency funding for current State Demand Side Management programs and encourage regulatory support for cost recovery.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Metro North Chamber supports comprehensive economic development policies that spark competitive advantages and create opportunities for sustained growth. Investments in our education system help develop tomorrow's workforce. Focused growth strategies enable expansion and retention of key industries in Colorado.

Metro North Chamber Recommendations:

1. Support the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade's (OEDIT) efforts to establish permanent funding for the Strategic Fund, which would help expand existing businesses while also attracting new ones.
2. Support the role of the Enterprise Tax Zone Program to encourage new business development and to retain existing businesses in Colorado.
3. Support the use of Urban Renewal Authorities to develop sustainable local economies and generate new revenue opportunities for Colorado.
4. Support the use of dynamic modeling to study the impacts of legislation on the business community.
5. Support and encourage ideas and initiatives to further fund K-12 education and higher education without over-taxing businesses.
6. Temporarily suspend new K-12 mandates and requirements in the implementation and evaluation of new content standards and teacher evaluation systems.
7. Support statewide partnerships that encourage business and education cooperation.

### STABLE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The Colorado regulatory environment must be predictable and stable, giving our business and education communities the confidence and degree of comfort necessary to invest in operational improvements. A constantly evolving set of rules and regulations distracts our communities by shifting the focus from adding value to their business model to staying compliant with the latest regulations. An unstable regulatory environment stalls organizational advancement, leaving our business and education communities struggling to compete.

Metro North Chamber Recommendations:

1. Enact legislation for a systematic review of regulations to identify redundancy, inefficiency, contradiction and/or obsolescence.
2. Support a process that effectively engages all affected parties for collaboration of any proposed regulations.
3. Create a regulatory environment that emphasizes educational outreach for first-time, non-compliance violations that do not jeopardize life or safety.
4. Limit the number of new regulations that can be introduced during session with a minimum three-year, mandatory review for efficacy.
5. Establish regulatory uniformity with national standards for those industries currently operating in Colorado.