



ADVOCATING FOR **COLORADO** IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Accelerate Colorado Brings Together State's Leading Business Leaders and Elected Officials in Series of Events to Advocate for Colorado in Washington, D.C.

AURORA, CO, July 6 – Accelerate Colorado recently concluded a series of events during the month of June, including its annual Business Mission to Washington, D.C. on June 12-14 and two Colorado partnership dinners, all of which focus on advocating for state issues at a federal level. The events combined brought together nearly 300 business and civic leaders and elected officials to focus on and communicate about key policy areas for 2017 including: energy, small business and economic development, aerospace and defense, healthcare and bioscience, transportation, water and natural resources, and veterans' affairs.

This year's 12th annual Business Mission to Washington, D.C. was the largest fly-in on record for the organization with over 110 individuals representing 64 businesses, municipalities, and community organizations in attendance. This included several Fortune 500 companies including Xcel Energy, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, and The Boeing Company. The group met directly with the entire Colorado Congressional Delegation as well as other subject matter experts and key decision makers including William E. Marion II, Deputy Chief, Information Dominance and Deputy Chief Information Officer, United States Air Force, and Noah Kroloff, Principal and Co-Founder, Global Security and Innovative Strategies.

"We have successfully grown this event over the years and built a reputation for facilitating productive engagement with our Congressional leadership that allows us to put Colorado's needs in the spotlight," stated Kevin Doran, Accelerate Colorado's Executive Director. "Our organization and member-driven policy committees work year-round to consistently advocate for important issues at a federal level, ensuring that Congressional leadership receives input from businesses and local governments." Doran added, "Our members get a unique opportunity to not only engage with the Delegation, but to also collaborate across public and private sectors."

Accelerate Colorado's two partnership dinners were held in Keystone, Colorado on June 5 during the Colorado Counties, Inc. 2017 Summer Conference, and Breckenridge, Colorado on June 21 during the Colorado Municipal League's 95th annual conference. The former brought together representatives from nearly 40 organizations, 25 of which are Colorado cities/towns and counties. The latter drew representatives from more than 50 organizations, 39 of which are Colorado cities/towns. Accelerate Colorado holds these events each year to provide communities and businesses from all areas of state the opportunity to come together and discuss local and state issues.

Doran says, "We believe that it is important to bring communities and business together to better understand where we have common ground and can partner to advocate for the issues most important to the state. It's equally important that we hear from communities inside and outside of the metro area, and these events serve as a platform to do just that. We facilitate connections that would otherwise not occur, and help organizations identify ways where they can work together for the greater good."

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Below is a list of the organizations who participated in the 2017 Business Mission to Washington, D.C.:

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Weld County
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About Accelerate Colorado

Accelerate Colorado is a partnership between business and local governments in Colorado that works with the U.S. Congress and key federal leadership on issues critical to the state's economic development, top industries, and business community. We work year-round to build consensus among the state's local governments and business leaders in order to present a unified, comprehensive agenda at the federal level for the economic benefit of the state as a whole. For more information on Accelerate Colorado and D.C. 2010, please visit www.acceleratecolorado.com.

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