



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

THE COST OF AMENDMENT 52

October 14, 2008

Many people from Falcon to Fountain, Calhan to Colorado Springs have expressed concern over Colorado's ground water and surface water supply. Dwindling water sources due to climate changes, increased demands on our systems and compact compliance with 17 other states are important issues affecting our water supply. Water, one of our most important resources ***IS*** the lifeline of our communities and Amendment 52 threatens that lifeline, by threatening the funding for essential water projects.

Amendment 52, a constitutional amendment proposes to take money that currently flows into water projects, low-income energy assistance, and forest management, and send a sizeable chunk of that money to transportation projects, specifically I-70.

I-70, a ***federal highway*** that utilizes ***federal tax dollars*** for maintenance and improvements, should not be funded on the backs of water projects. A federal highway that has absolutely nothing to do with Colorado's water supply or water projects should never have access to any of these funds reserved for water projects. There is no question about the need for additional transportation revenue; however, Amendment 52 requires a spending mandate imbedded in the Constitution that essentially will result in a "robbing Peter to pay Paul" scenario.

Amendment 52 shifts over \$100 million in the next four years from essential water projects to transportation projects. Not only will Amendment 52 hurt the state's ability to meet long-term water supply needs, it will result in significant reductions and even total elimination of state programs that fund water projects, water and soil conservation efforts, wildlife protection, forest health and low income energy assistance programs.

Our county has utilized these water funds for ***water projects*** (waster water projects are not included in these water grants or loans) in the past and I believe this amendment will ultimately hurt our district and the state of Colorado by diverting money from important and effective programs ***TO*** a vague transportation plan that would open up the highway fund to pork-barrel raids.

We must continue to work on common sense solutions to Colorado's transportation needs without jeopardizing Colorado's water programs, I strongly oppose Amendment 52, because drying up funding for essential water projects is something that will cost us all.

If you are interested in reviewing the State of Colorado Ballot Information Booklet (BLUE BOOK), the financial impact to the state and taxpayers and review my opinion of these ballot initiatives visit WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG, and click on Messages. Thank you for or the opportunity to serve you!

Respectfully,

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Colorado State Representative HD#19

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