



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

TAKING A TOLL ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

February 23, 2009

Last week I wrote about the increases in automobile registration fees, rental car fees and late registration fees proposed in Senate Bill 108. This week I want to let you know about the toll SB108 will have on our private property rights!

For many years citizens in El Paso, Pueblo, Elbert, Adams, Arapahoe, Weld & Larimer Counties have been fighting to protect their property rights against private toll road developers. SB108, sponsored by Rep. Rice (D) and Senator Gibbs (D) incorporates many of the same aggressive provisions the private toll road bills of the past tried to harness:

- SB108 allows local governments the authority to toll any or all portions of existing highway segments or lanes.
- SB108 expands the definition of highway to include bikeways, park-and ride facilities, service areas, open space and any other real or personal property.
- SB108 allows for the creation of Bridge Enterprise Boards and Transportation Enterprise Boards and provides these new boards with the police powers to seize private property through eminent domain when the boards believe it is either necessary or *convenient* to condemn the private property.

Should SB108 become law, the citizens of House District 19 who are currently struggling to cover the necessities of life will find themselves on a collision course between paying for food and fuel or these higher fees, fines, and tolls.

The transportation funding issues facing Colorado are serious but SB108 is not the answer. SB108 forces the citizens of Colorado to pay progressively higher registration fees and fines; allows local governments to toll existing roads already paid for by local, state and federal taxes; grows the size of government in Colorado by the creation of several more enterprises; and violates our fundamental property rights by allowing condemnation of private property when it is CONVENIENT for these governmental agencies.

If you believe in fighting for your property rights, please call your State House and Senate representatives today and voice your opposition to SB108!

Respectfully,

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