



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

### **PROTECTING COLORADO AUTO DEALERS**

One of the requirements of the auto manufactures bailout mandated Chrysler and General Motors (GM) to reorganize under federal bankruptcy laws. The bailout provided billions of dollars of loans to Chrysler and GM from the U.S. taxpayer and in turn they terminated two thousand eighty-nine locally owned motor auto dealer franchises in the United States, and thirty nine Colorado franchises. Most of the effected auto dealerships were independent, locally owned by family members, friends and neighbors. These hard working small businesses on average invest twelve to fifteen million dollars per franchise and have been treated unfairly by the federal bankruptcy courts. These local business owners, not the auto manufacturers usually own the land, buildings, service facilities, inventory of vehicles and account for approximately 20% of Colorado's sales tax revenues.

Colorado's 39 dealerships were stripped of their franchises while GM and Chrysler ***did not*** have to honor any termination protections as defined in Colorado law. Many of our dealerships were forced to close without any Options to object to the closures. Some people would say, "there was no rhyme or reason for the closures" and GM and Chrysler appeared to have randomly selected dealerships to close without any regard to profit, location or longevity.

Now the two manufactures the tax payers bailed-out appear to be reallocating the franchises formerly held by Colorado dealers to out-of-state investors. GM and Chrysler appear to be offering out-of-state interests auto franchises ***without*** offering the original Colorado business owners the option of reopening.

Colorado dealerships forced to close by the federal bankruptcy court should be given the first option to reopen. Our family members, friends and neighbors should be given the right to reopen their dealerships and not forced to hand over their franchises to out-of-state investors. That is exactly what HB10-1049 sponsored by myself and Rep. Rice (D), will provide. This year we will be fighting for our Colorado dealerships so they will have the first right to reopen their franchises. This is one more way we can protect Colorado small businesses from out-of-state interests and the heavy hand of the federal bankruptcy courts. Please follow the debate on this issue at [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us) , [www.gomarsha.org](http://www.gomarsha.org) and contact me at [marshalooper@gmail.com](mailto:marshalooper@gmail.com) if you have any questions or comments.

*Marsha Looper*

Colorado State Representative HD#19  
Website: WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG, 719-238-5600  
Email:MarshaLooper@gmail.com