



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204 Fax: 970-352-0242
1150 O St., P.O. Box 758, Greeley, CO 80632

NEWS RELEASE

Date: 2/10/15

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

COMMISSIONERS ENDORSE SENATE BILL 82

WELD COUNTY, CO – Last week, Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer and Commissioner Sean Conway testified at the State Capital in Denver in support of Senate Bill 82: Concerning the authority of counties to establish a county workforce development program.

Following testimony on the bill, the state affairs committee unanimously voted to send it directly to the house floor where a motion was made to put it on the consent agenda. The bill will likely be acted upon by the full senate in the upcoming days.

Senate Bill 82 authorizes a county to establish a workforce development program to provide financial assistance to high school graduates in the county who pursue post-secondary education or training from an accredited institute of higher education or certified training program. Under this bill, any county that establishes a workforce development program may also establish a workforce development fund to accept contributions for the purpose of the program. The bill also authorizes a county that has established a workforce development program to offer an incentive, in the form of a county property tax credit or rebate, to a residential or commercial property owner in the county who contributes to a county workforce development fund.

"This is a great bill that will be very helpful to Weld County residents," said Commissioner Kirkmeyer. "We are hopeful it will pass and allow us to better provide higher-education assistance to Weld County Veterans, graduating high school seniors and people who want to go back to school to get their GED."

Commissioner Conway added, "This bill gives us another tool in the tool box as county commissioners to address our work force development needs."

Along with Commissioner Kirkmeyer and Commissioner Conway, representatives from Aims Community College, Colorado Counties Incorporated (CCI) and the Associated General Contractors of America testified and endorsed the bill; the University of Northern Colorado also supported the bill.

Other county commissioners, including the Adams County Commissioners, have shown their support for Senate Bill 82 as well. "More counties are coming forward and endorsing the bill. As the process continues, we expect to have a lot of people and communities behind us," said Kirkmeyer.

For more information please visit: www.leg.state.co.us.

###