



April 29, 2013

The Write Stuff

Dear Susan,

With a week and a half left in the Colorado General Assembly's legislative session, things seem to be heating up much more than "winding down." So when about 20 of us from House District 2 spent a "Day at the Capitol" on Friday, there was no shortage drama and intrigue as the House and Senate worked to finish their business in time to celebrate my birthday on May 8.

The [Day at the Capitol](#) offered us the chance to recognize many of our elected leaders and to see them in action, as they in turn recognized the work of so many activists and citizen leaders who have helped elect men and women who can represent the best ideas and visions for our community. We were graced with early morning presentations from **Senator Irene Aguilar**, **Representative Beth McCann**, **Representative Angela Williams**, and **Representative Daniel Kagan**, and we had the opportunity to greet and chat briefly with, among others, **Speaker Mark Ferrandino**, **Representatives Dan Pabon**, **Crisanta Duran**, **Brittany Pettersen**, **Sue Schafer**, **David Young**, **Paul Rosenthal**, **Jonathan Singer**, **Lois Court**, and **Jovan Melton** informally on the House floor and in the halls as we visited the Capitol. For videos from the day, [please click here](#).

It was the second day of a seemingly endless debate on a vitally important renewable energy standard for Colorado. The bill ultimately passed the House, despite

a stream of failed amendments which gave the impression of a de facto filibuster. So many of my friends elected to the State House asked me during the debate if I was sure I really wanted the job of State Representative, but those friends serve as shining examples of exactly what I am striving for in my campaign to serve as the State Representative from House District 2.

These folks have made an incredible difference this year, changing the Colorado we live in and strengthening our society in the process. After two challenging years with a minority in the House, our Representatives have roared back with a record of accomplishments reflecting the evolving character of Coloradans.

I know many of them are frustrated with the partisan divide that was on display Friday, but we should all be honored to be represented by individuals who are drawn toward these crises and a call to seek meaningful solutions. They remind me of the heroic first responders and citizens we saw rushing to ground zero in the Boston Marathon bombing two weeks ago. Of course the stakes of wading into a filibuster on the floor of the House are nothing like the stakes our first responders confront, but that call to service is the same, and the model our leaders set only inspires me to join them and stand beside them.

The session has already been an historic one, and this week we'll celebrate two of the biggest bills to pass this year -- bills many of us have worked to support for years -- even decades.

Later today, **Governor Hickenlooper will sign the "Asset Bill" into law.** The signing is set for **Monday, April 29th at 1 p.m. at The Student Success Building on the Auraria Campus of Metropolitan State University.** If you can steal away for an hour, I hope you'll join supporters to celebrate this long-time-coming moment.

As I've knocked doors and talked to neighbors over the years in our district, I've heard plenty about the problems surrounding **our broken immigration system**, and I'm proud that Colorado is finally leading on this issue, making meaningful change on behalf of innocent children who came with their families to Colorado and have taken the initiative to work their way through our

school systems and to strive to become productive members of our community by furthering their education.

The Asset Bill (SB13-33) offers a solution that benefits Colorado students who aspire to higher education, rewards colleges and universities who can open their doors to more deserving students, and strengthens the community as we welcome to the workforce a new generation of Colorado-educated young adults eager to contribute to society. The bill offers in-state tuition to Colorado colleges and universities for students who graduate from Colorado high schools with the stipulation that the students must apply for citizenship.

I'm proud to support Colorado's humane, homegrown effort to blaze a path toward acceptance for students eager to build on their secondary school education and to embrace citizenship. The moment has been a decade in the making, and I hope we all recognize a reason to celebrate a new law that helps aspiring students reach their goals, helps aspiring citizens integrate fully and legally into our society, and helps strengthen and fund our colleges and universities.

Just 35 hours later, **The Civil Unions Bill** that Governor Hickenlooper signed into law last month will go into effect as the clock strikes midnight Tuesday night, ushering in a new era in Colorado in the wee hours of Wednesday morning. **The Webb Building** will be open and **Denver's Mayor Michael Hancock** will be presiding over some of the first civil union ceremonies, giving Colorado's gay and lesbian couples the legal recognition they have long been denied.

The Webb Building will open to the public at 10:30 p.m., with the County Clerk's office opening from midnight to 3 a.m. to issue licenses to couples, and One Colorado is sponsoring celebrations from midnight until 2 a.m.

These two bills remind me of a poster that hung in my middle school science classroom: "186,000 miles per second is not just a good idea; it's the law." The poster was a takeoff on the 55-mph speed limit campaigns, but it seems fitting to apply it to both Civil Unions and Asset. They are no longer merely good ideas to rally behind. They are --finally-- the law!

Last Call for *The Book of Mormon*

I've had a tremendous response to my invitation to supporters and theater-lovers to join me at a performance of *The Book of Mormon* on **Wednesday, November 20** at the **Buell Theater**. I sold out my entire allotment in the first three days since I announced the event, so I've secured additional seats, including a **selection of floor seats** and additional seats with our group of 50 in the balcony.



My deadline for finalizing the tickets is **Tuesday, April 30**, so if you're interested in joining us or upgrading your tickets, please let me know and make arrangements by that date. You can make a secure payment by [clicking here for my Act Blue payment page](#), or contact me about writing a check. It's too late to mail a check, but I arrange to meet you if that works best.

The event is a fundraiser for my campaign, and there are a variety of prices to help meet your budget.

We have two entire sections of the balcony reserved, and **two rows of seats together on the floor**, in the center section, Row U and V (21st and 22nd rows.)

Box office value is \$63.50 (\$60 + \$3.50 service fees) in the balcony and \$93.50 (\$90 + \$3.50 service fees) on the floor.

- **South Park Prophets: \$85 SOLD OUT**
- **Hello -- This Seat Will Change Your Life!: \$100**
- **I Believe -- Broadway Backers: \$125 (includes pre-play reception with cocktails and appetizers)**

- **Tabernacle Row/Heavenly Hosts:** \$165 (*includes Front Row Balcony Seats, pre-play reception with cocktails and appetizers, and Host recognition*)
- **Saints' Circle/Heavenly Hosts:** \$200 (*includes Floor Seats, pre-play reception with cocktails and appetizers, and Host recognition*)

I hope you can join us for this **9-Time Tony Winner**, including **Best Musical of 2011** from Trey Parker and Matt Stone, Colorado's own creators of *South Park*.

click the following links for full reviews

["The Best Musical of This Century,"](#) *New York Times*

["Book of Mormon Deserves Worship,"](#) *Washington Post*

["Taut, hilarious The Book of Mormon Accomplishes Its Mission,"](#) *The Denver Post*

["The New Gold Standard for Broadway,"](#) *Rolling Stone*

click the links to view clips from the Broadway production and interviews with the Colorado creators

[Trey Parker and Matt Stone on The Daily Show with John Stewart](#)

[Trey Parker and Matt Stone in 60 Minutes](#)

["I Believe,"](#) from the 2011 Tony Awards

["Hello,"](#) from the 2012 Tony Awards

Colorado Social Legislation Committee Addresses Homelessness and Mental Health

One of my touchstone resources has been the **Colorado Social Legislative Committee** and their weekly forum on issues making their way through the state legislature. Last week I attended their panel on homelessness, coordinated by **Randle Loeb** and featuring

Senator John Kefalas and representatives from Denver's Road Home, The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, The Division of Housing and Advisory Committee for Homeless Youth, The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, and many more. If you're interested in catching some glimpses of the panel, I've got video up on my website. [Please click here to visit a page on the panel.](#)

CSLC continues its series today, Monday, April 29th, with a panel on **mental health issues**. The panel will be moderated by Moe Keller of Mental Health Ameroca of Colorado, and participating panelists represent the Colorado Mental Wellness Network and the Colorado Department of Human Services. Among the bills to be discussed are HB-1296, concerning the consolidation of the mental health, alcohol, and substance use disorder statutes related to civil commitments and SB-226, concerning a coordinated behavioral health crisis response system for communities through the state.

If you can get away for lunch, bring a brown bag and join the discussion with the Colorado Social Legislation Committee. They meet in the First Baptist Church basement on the corner of Grant and 14th, across from the Capitol, and are scheduled to go from 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

How The West Was Won -- Rockies Fundraiser, Part 2

Who'd a thunk it? I sure didn't, but the Colorado Rockies are currently tied with Arizona for **1st place** atop the National League West Division!

I've got my second Rockies fundraiser scheduled for Monday, May 20th when the Diamondbacks return to Colorado for a battle of the titans. We have a small number of tickets for an intimate outing at the ballpark, and I have **four seats left**. I'd love to have you join us and help support my campaign.

We have four ticket rates to fit your budget. All the tickets are together in the **Outfield Box** section down the first base line, so pay what you'd like. *Box office*

value is \$44.50 (\$39 + \$5.50 service fees).

- Season Ticket: \$35
- All-Star: \$50
- MVP: \$75 (includes pre-game cocktails and appetizers at the Wynkoop Brewery)
- Hall-of-Famer: \$100 (Host recognition and pre-game cocktails and appetizers at the Wynkoop Brewery)

Game starts at 6:40 p.m. Pre-game Event at 5:00 p.m.

You can reserve your tickets with a secure on-line contribution by [clicking here](#).

Get Involved

With the legislative session wrapping up, my campaign is poised to continue building momentum with a lot of activity on tap for May. Many of you have already signed up to volunteer in areas like door-knocking, data entry, phone banking, event planning, campaign material designing, and communication around issues. If you'd like to join the team, please drop me an e-mail at PeopleForPerkinsHD2@gmail.com.

Volunteering has always been my preferred method of contributing to political campaigns, and I welcome your involvement in any way that works for you. If making a financial contribution is a better fit for you, you can make a tremendous impact with a grassroots contribution to my campaign. All of my campaign resources come from individual contributors -- I don't accept PAC (Political Action Committee) money or SDC (Small Donor Committee) contributions, and I am determined to make a difference for people through people-powered support. You can make a secure contribution [by clicking here for my Act Blue contribution page](#), or by mailing checks to People for Perkins, P.O. Box 102261, Denver, Colorado 80250-2261.

Thanks again for all your support and encouragement. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference in House District 2.

Sincerely,

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