

June 19, 2020

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor,

Thank you for your leadership during this difficult time. We appreciate your willingness to work with the business community to reopen and rebuild.

We are writing to express deep concern about the outcome of the 2020 legislative session. While we realize the extreme pressure our elected officials are under due to this unprecedented time, we are concerned about many of the bills on their way to your desk. Specifically, the negative impact those bills will have on our state's economic recovery.

As we work toward a Colorado that is open and safe, we must do that work together. Government acting in isolation is not only a divisive practice -- it makes for bad policy. Lack of engagement with the business community was rampant in the final days of the 2020 legislative session where several economically damaging policies were rushed through at breakneck speed. Bills that could radically transform the employer-employee relationship (SB20-205), that could open business up to liability when they can least afford it (HB20-1415) and that could undercut the financial certainties provided by our federal delegation (HB20-1420) were passed within mere days of introduction. While 1420 moved significantly from its introduced form, with the help of many of the undersigned organizations, we have serious concerns for the precedent it sets for future tax policy. Thank you for expressing your reservations about the measure and helping dampen its final impact. We will need that leadership again when these issues return in 2021.

Given the unprecedented impact of the pandemic on industries across Colorado, adding financial pressures to business will only make it more difficult for companies to open their doors and put Coloradans back to work. With hundreds of businesses on the verge of collapse and almost 500,000 Coloradans having filed for unemployment, now is not the time to make it more difficult to remain in business. And making business more expensive is precisely the impact of HB20-1415, HB 20-1420, SB20-205, SB20-207, and SB20-215. Individually each of these measures is concerning

enough; taken as a whole the effects of these ill-advised bills will be dangerous for both the Colorado business environment and to our national reputation as a business-friendly state.

Please consider the cost scenario laid out by the Common Sense Institute which found that several of the aforementioned bills (and ballot measures) would collectively impose \$4.156 billion in new taxes, fees, and other costs for businesses.

The economic hit from coronavirus and the subsequent shutdown, will be with us for years to come. We empathize with our legislators looking for ways to staunch the bleeding from more than \$3 billion in budget cuts but raising prices on the economic engine that powers recovery will only exacerbate this crisis. It will not solve the problem.

As a Governor with a strong business outlook we hope that you will see the devastating cumulative effects of this legislation. You rightly indicated a veto was possible on HB 20-1420 and as a result the bill was improved dramatically in the final hours of the legislative session. Further deliberation is not possible at this time. Therefore, we now request that you use the veto power you possess as Governor to address the other bills we bring before you as they create such significant concern among Colorado business leaders whose focus is on safely re-opening and getting our economy back on track.

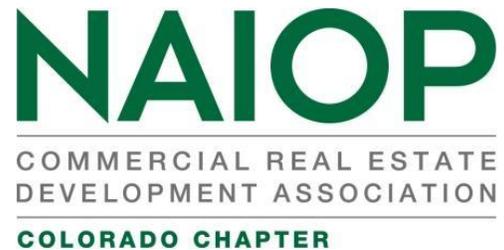
Your actions today will set the tone for our state's recovery.

Yours in partnership,





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