



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2008

### Contacts:

Dan Pilcher, CACI  
303.866.9600

Pete Webb, Webb PR  
303.796.8888

### **CACI Board Supports Right-to-Work Initiative, Opposes Four Union-Advocated Ballot Proposals** *Protecting Colorado's business climate is CACI's purpose*

**DENVER**— To protect the Colorado's business climate, the CACI Board of Directors voted this morning to support the proposed right-to-work ballot measure and to oppose four union-backed ballot measures.

"CACI's clear mission is to champion a healthy Colorado business climate," said Alan Poe, CACI Board Chair and Partner with the law firm of Holland and Hart LLP, "and the CACI Board's action today is directly in line with that mission."

Referring to the right-to-work initiative, Chuck Berry, CACI President, said, "This proposal insures that workers will neither be forced to join a union nor—if they don't want to join the union—be forced to pay the equivalent of union dues as a condition of their employment."

"When right-to-work bills have been proposed in the legislature," said Berry, former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, "CACI has traditionally supported them and today's CACI Board action is consistent with that long-term policy." Unions will still be able to organize and collect dues from workers who want to belong, Berry added.

At the national level, and in Colorado, organized labor is pushing hard to expand its membership and political influence. In Colorado, unions last year fired the first shot across the bow of the state's business community by advocating HB-1072, which would have sunk the long-standing Colorado Labor Peace Act. CACI vigorously opposed the bill, which was vetoed by Governor Bill Ritter.

Organized labor is now pushing several variants in two categories of November ballot proposals. One category, which has two proposals (Numbers 62 and 76), would take away from employers their ability to suspend or terminate workers except in certain, narrowly defined circumstances.

The second category, which has four proposals (Numbers 57, 73, 74, and 75), would (a) expand civil and criminal liability to more employees for the alleged wrongdoing of a company and (b) allow any citizen to sue a company for alleged wrongdoing, which is known as a "private right of action," and awarding any damages to Colorado State Government or other governmental "entities" while the citizen would be awarded legal fees.

Today, the CACI Board voted to oppose proposed ballot initiatives Numbers 73, 74, 75 and 76. Last month, the Board voted to oppose proposed Numbers 57 and 62. Although the six measures have been approved by the Colorado Initiative Title Setting Board, it is not clear which initiatives the unions will actually take to the street for signature-gathering.

“Because of these major initiatives pushed by the unions, along with the proliferation of union-backed bills in this year’s session of the Colorado General Assembly, CACI has reluctantly concluded that the political balance in the state is in danger of being tipped in favor of unions, which will be detrimental to the state’s economic future,” said Peter O’Connor, CACI Board Chair-Elect and Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel for AngloGold Ashanti North America, Inc.

**About CACI:**

Established in 1965, the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry is the statewide chamber of commerce. With 478 members statewide, employing nearly 200,000 workers, CACI’s mission is to champion a healthy business environment. To achieve this mission, CACI has key four objectives: (1) maintain & improve the cost of doing business; (2) advocate a pro-business state government; (3) increase the quantity of educated, skilled workers; and (4) strengthen Colorado’s critical infrastructure (roads, water, telecommunications and energy).

CACI’s members include individual businesses, 30 trade associations, 30 local chambers of commerce and several local economic development organizations. CACI’s lobbying team works with state lawmakers to promote business-friendly laws, and has a successful track record of securing legislation that benefits all Colorado businesses. CACI is a non-profit organization funded solely by its members. For more information, visit the CACI Web site at [www.cochamber.com](http://www.cochamber.com) or call 303.831.7411.

###