

Governor's "Eco-Devo" Plan Seeks to Create a "More Uniform Tax and Fee Procedure"

July 29--Last week, Governor John Hickenlooper released the [*Colorado Blueprint*](#), the "bottom-up" economic development strategy, which calls for a more uniform tax and fee procedure at the local government level.

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OEDIT/OEDIT/1251595201376>

Under the first focus area of the strategy, "create a business-friendly environment," this third goal is one that will be of great interest to CACI, especially to members of the CACI Tax Council:

[Work closely with local governments to create a more uniform tax and fee procedure.](#)

The "action" to achieve this goal is:

[To address the lack of uniformity in how sales taxes and income taxes are collected across jurisdictions and help the business community prosper.](#)

The action sets out three "details" to carry out the action:

- [Establish a working group with local governments and the private sector to define opportunities to improve filing process for state and local taxes.](#)
- [Pay special attention to businesses that file state and local taxes in multiple jurisdictions, using multiple processes.](#)
- [Be considerate of local control issues in pursuit of a more efficient, effective and uniform tax filing system through leveraging of technology and sharing of information.](#)

The "lead partners" to carry out the action's three details are:

- [The executive director of the Colorado Department of Revenue.](#)
- [The executive directors of the Statewide Internet Protocol Authority.](#)
- [The executive directors of the Colorado Municipal League; Colorado Counties, Inc.; Special Districts Association of Colorado; and the Colorado School Board Association.](#)

The "measurable outcome" for the action is:

[Through analysis of ideas for the development of a uniform process to apply for and pay business and income taxes within Colorado.](#)

The "timeline" for the action is:

- [Working group established by October 2011.](#)
- [Recommendations developed by mid-2012.](#)
- [Implementation of new tax filing system by 2013.](#)

The public has until Friday, August 10th, to review the initiative initiated by. The report, which was released July 19th, can be reviewed online at the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OED/IT) and one can then fill out an on-line survey.

In January, the Governor unveiled his grassroots process to create a “bottom-up” state economic development strategy by focusing first on localities and regions and then percolating the results upward into a state plan.

Issues that emerged statewide included increasing broadband telecommunications access, revitalizing downtowns, promoting tourism, advocating regulatory reform and increasing credit to small businesses.

The Governor charged Dwayne Romero, Executive Director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OED/IT) with carrying out the effort. Romero steps down at the end of this month and his position will be taken by [Ken Lund](#), who is currently Chief Legal Counsel for the Governor. Lund will be tasked with implementing the *Colorado Blueprint*.

http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_18328859

“Colorado has turned the typical economic development efforts on its head and created a plan with real benchmarks, measurable goals and concrete solutions to help every community create jobs and help businesses thrive,” the Governor said in a [news release](#).

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagemame=GovHickenlooper%2FCBONLayout&cid=1251595456174&pagemame=CBONWrapper>

The *Colorado Blueprint* concentrates on six areas to promote economic development:

1. Create a business-friendly environment.
2. Recruit, grow and retain businesses.
3. Increase access to capital.
4. Create and market a stronger Colorado brand.
5. Educate and train the workforce of the future.
6. Cultivate innovation and technology.

OED/IT carried out three rounds of statewide meetings to hear from local officials, business leaders and others. The state’s 64 counties were grouped into 14 regions, which were charged with creating goals, strategies, action tasks and outcomes. OED/IT drafted the statewide plan based on the 14 regional plans.