

DOUG LAMBORN
5TH DISTRICT, COLORADO



437 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-4422
FAX 202-226-2638

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN,
ENERGY AND MINERALS
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1271 KELLY JOHNSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 110
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80920
719-520-0055
FAX 719-520-0840

WEBSITE:
Lamborn.house.gov

May 16, 2012

Governor John W. Hickenlooper
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Dear Governor Hickenlooper,

We write to you today urging you to appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court the recent decision of the Colorado Court of Appeals declaring the Colorado Day of Prayer unconstitutional.

Prayer is a manifestation of a sincerely held religious belief and is deeply engrained in the history of our nation. We thank you for recognizing the importance of prayer to Coloradans and the constitutional right of all Americans to pray both publically and privately in your "Colorado Day of Prayer" proclamation on February 7, 2012.

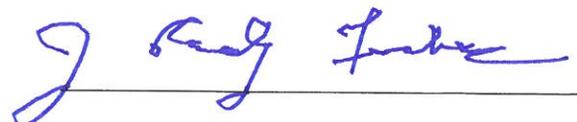
The decision of the Colorado Court of Appeals declaring such proclamations unconstitutional is stunning in light of the overwhelming importance of prayer to the majority of Americans, the extent to which prayer—including the prayers of public officials—continues to play an important role in our nation, and the text of the Colorado Constitution itself.

The Denver District Court correctly dismissed this case in 2010, stating "...there is nothing controversial about a restatement of a right protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution...the proclamation [does] not have the force and effect of law, and even if [it] did, the language does not support the foundation for a state religion, but only an acknowledgment of the rights of the citizenry as recognized as far back as the Declaration of Independence."

Therefore, we respectfully request that you appeal this case to the Colorado Supreme Court. We have every confidence that upon review of the nation's long-standing public and private practice of prayer throughout its entire history, many courts' precedents on the freedom of religion, and the language of the Religious Freedom Section of the Colorado Constitution's Bill of Rights, the Colorado Supreme Court will overturn the ruling of the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,





Mike Colan

Scott B. Lipton

Mike Kelly

Kathy White

Judy Forke

Mike McIntyre

Vicky Hartzler

Long Adams

Gregory

Glenn G. Thompson

Randy Neugebauer

Walter B. Jones

Steve King

Gregg Harper