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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Creating the Governor's Climate Advisory Panel

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order establishing the Governor's Climate Advisory Panel.

1. Background, Need, and Purpose

Colorado's first Climate Action Plan, issued in November 2007, identifies critical steps that we must take to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions sufficiently to avoid major disruption to Colorado's economy, environment, and society. The Plan also recognizes that we are early in our evaluation of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to unavoidable climate change – the Climate Action Plan must be, in fact, a living document revisited and revised as we measure our progress and adjust our strategies to changing needs. To do so in the most informed way possible, this Executive Order establishes a Climate Advisory Panel that taps the rich expertise that resides in Colorado's energy, business, agriculture, transportation, scientific and academic, nonprofit, conservation, and government sectors. The Panel will provide a mechanism for considering new ideas to incorporate into the Climate Action Plan as it is revisited and revised in future years.

2. Mission and Scope

The purpose of the Climate Advisory Panel is to utilize Colorado's human capital and expertise on the wide range of issues touched on by climate change. The Climate Advisory Panel will respond to requests for review by the Governor on new opportunities for action to address climate change issues, including review of potential climate adaptation strategies.

The Climate Advisory Panel shall:

- A. Meet periodically or at the request of the Governor. Should subcommittees be formed by the Climate Advisory Panel, those subcommittees may meet at an appropriate time to be identified by the chair of the subcommittee.
- B. Provide a forum for considering options and providing recommendations for the achievement of the greenhouse gas reduction goals set forth in the Climate Action Plan.
- C. Make recommendations to the Governor regarding potential policies and programs that may be necessary to accomplish the goals established in the Climate Action Plan.
- D. Address, at a minimum, the following topics and suggest strategies to create:
 - i. Options for expanding and effectively coordinating state-led efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
 - ii. Methods for engaging interested stakeholders in voluntary and mandatory programs to achieve greenhouse gas reductions;
 - iii. Mechanisms for conducting effective planning for adaptation to climate change;
 - iv. Additions to future versions of the Climate Action Plan, focusing on the key sectors identified in the first version of the plan (i.e., energy, utilities, the built environment, agriculture, transportation, and waste reduction).

3. Membership

- A. The Climate Advisory Panel shall have up to three chairs appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.
- B. The Climate Advisory Panel shall have up to 30 members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. These members shall represent the following sectors in Colorado: energy, business, agriculture, transportation, scientific and academic, nonprofit, conservation, and government, as well as other sectors potentially impacted by climate change.

4. Staffing and Resources

The Office of Policy and Initiatives within the Governor's Office shall provide to the Climate Advisory Panel necessary administrative support.

The Climate Advisory Panel shall have the power to accept money and in-kind contributions from private entities and persons only to the extent such donations are necessary to cover its expenses. Any money contributed to the Climate Advisory Panel shall be directed to the Office of the Governor and deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Colorado in an account within the Office of the Governor's budget. Members of the Climate Advisory Panel shall serve without compensation, but may, at the discretion of the chair and approval of the Office of the Governor, be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred.

5. Directive

The Governor's Climate Advisory Panel is hereby created.

6. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in until August 31, 2011 or until further modification or rescission by the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this 22nd
day of April, 2008.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor