

media release

**Colorado Department of Labor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Hickenlooper Proclaims March 1-7 as

Colorado Weights and Measures Week

LAKESWOOD, Colo. – Gov. Hickenlooper has honored the consumer protection efforts of the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment by proclaiming March 1-7, 2014, as Colorado’s *Weights and Measures Week*.

“CDA’s Inspection and Consumer Services division affects almost every person in Colorado,” said Nick Brechun, CDA’s Measurement Standards program administrator. “Our goal is to protect consumers and promote equity and integrity in the marketplace. The measurement standards programs and metrology laboratory play integral part in that goal. This proclamation is a reflection of those efforts.”

“OPS inspectors ensure equity in the marketplace on all retail petroleum transactions” said Mahesh Albuquerque, Director of the Division of Oil and Public Safety at the Colorado

Department of Labor and Employment. “Through our work consumers can be confident they are getting what they pay for at the pump, while businesses are assured of an even playing field with their competitors”

Weights and Measures Week is an opportunity to educate consumers, businesses, and lawmakers about the quiet but systematic effort by weights and measures officials who have instilled so much trust in our marketplace.

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CDLE’s Division of Oil and Public Safety is responsible for inspecting Colorado’s more than 50,000 retail motor fuel dispensers. In addition to ensuring accuracy of these dispensers, the Division ensures fuel quality and environmental protection from leaks and spills. OPS routinely collect samples of fuel products (gasoline, diesel, E-85, biodiesel, etc.) from retail fueling stations across the state, and analyzes these samples to ensure compliance with fuel quality standards. In addition OPS inspectors inspect bulk propane, gasoline, and diesel truck meters and retail propane, compressed and liquefied natural gas dispensers for accuracy.

For more information about CDLE's Weights and Measures program, visit www.colorado.gov/cdle/ops and click on "Weights and Measures Section."

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Inspectors and metrologists within CDA’s measurement standards programs ensure the accuracy of scales, meters, and packaged products at supermarkets, warehouses, packing plants, storage facilities, and other retail stores through inspections. The metrology laboratory calibrates the standards used by the inspectors and licensed scale repair companies. Both protect the consumer and help ensure fairness in the marketplace.

Weights and measures officials conduct tests of commercially used weighing and measuring devices and report their condition to the owners. If the devices are correct, they are approved and sealed. If incorrect, they are rejected for use until the problem is corrected.

“Weights and measures is one of the oldest and most important activities of government,” continued Brechun. “Every citizen and every business has a direct financial interest in seeing that all transactions are fair to both the buyer and seller.”

For more information on CDA’s Weights and Measures programs, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/ics and click on “measurement standards” or “metrology laboratory.”

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The proclamation states:

WHEREAS, each year the first week in March is set aside as Weights and Measures Week to commemorate the nation’s first Weights and Measures Law – enacted on March 2, 1799 – and to raise public awareness on the importance of this law; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Agriculture- Inspection and Consumer Services Division and the Department of Labor and Employment- Division of Oil and Public Safety’s Weights and Measures Programs serve the public need for standard weights and measures in our state; and

WHEREAS, employees within the Weights and Measures programs promote equity in the marketplace by ensuring all weighing and measuring devices used in commerce are accurate both in design and operation; and

WHEREAS, Weights and Measures activities have an annual estimated economic impact of more than \$75 billion in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado recognizes the dedicated efforts of our state servants who ensure our weights and measures meet the national standard and encourage the public to learn more about this important service and the impact it has on their lives:

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 1-7, 2014, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WEEK.