



October 24, 2008

Dear Member of Colorado Concern:

*We received a copy of a fundraising email from Colorado Businesses for Sensible Solutions (CBSS) that contained half-truths and innuendos. Since CBSS chose to put your email address in the public domain, I wanted to set the record straight on Amendment 54. After reading this letter, we respectfully request that you **NOT** provide any funds for the union's misguided efforts in opposing Amendment 54.*

Most of you already know me; we've worked together on many projects to benefit Colorado and the University of Colorado. In my ten years as a regent I learned more about the way government should operate by observing Hank Brown. Hank had a goal of making the University transparent and accountable. As many of you, I watched in amazement as Hank restored the public's trust in the University. I know that a major function of that process was by being more transparent in University operations.

When the authors of Amendment 54 asked me to be a spokesman I jumped at the opportunity for two reasons: 1) the searchable database for all no-bid contracts will help bring transparency to government. I watched Hank restore confidence in the University with transparency and I know that it is the best way to establish public trust in government. 2) the contractual prohibition on making political contributions by holder of NO-BID contracts will clean up the culture of corruption in Colorado. The University established rules for no-bid contracting years ago; we bid all contracts that have a minimum value of \$50,000. It has not been onerous and in fact has been welcomed by those who fought against us.

*Amendment 54 does define **EXCLUSIVE** collective bargaining agreements as a NO-BID government contract. What does that mean for the unions? It means that union PACs are prohibited from giving to candidates and political parties. Individual union members can still contribute to the campaigns of their choice. The unions can still sit at the table with governmental agencies to negotiate their contracts.*

Bottom line, we find it ironic that these same organizations that supported Amendment 27, the Fair Campaign Finance Act in 2004, which prohibited corporate contributions, are unwilling to support Amendment 54. Is it fair to restrict corporate giving but not give those same restrictions to unions? We think not!

The fact is, we can pinpoint close to \$1 billion in no-bid contracts in Colorado. If the University of Colorado, with it's \$2.4 billion enterprise can competitively bid all its contracts then so too can all governmental agencies. We believe the actual number is much higher than \$1 billion. And we also believe that in this day and age when Coloradans are worried about making mortgage payments, the least government can do is competitively bid state contracts and receive the best price for services rendered.

Regarding public utilities, they are excluded because of their Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). Amendment 54 does not affect them at all!

The bottom line: when government competitively bids contracts taxpayers AND the business community are the real winners.

Final thoughts:

1. The fundraising calls you are receiving are coming from the labor organization, SEIU – someone has shared your membership list with the unions.
2. We believe that donating to a 501(c)3 for the stated purpose of electioneering is illegal and may put you and your organization in jeopardy of running afoul with the IRS.
3. We have been battling the lies and distortions from the unions for the last four months, if you have any questions about Amendment 54, please pick-up the phone and call me at (303) 403-2529.

Respectfully yours,



Tom Lucero

P.S. Please use the link below to watch a recent CSPAN debate. This debate features the arguments presented by our union opponents and me – click on the flash player to the right of the screen to watch the debate.

http://www.c-spanarchives.org/library/index.php?main_page=product_video_info&products_id=281895-7