

Press Release

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Progressive 15

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For Immediate Release

PROGRESSIVE 15 TAKES POSITIONS AT FALL CONFERENCE

FORT MORGAN, CO, October 20, 2013

During the 2013 Fall Conference in Sterling, Colorado October 10 and 11, the Progressive 15 Board of Directors took the following positions: Oppose Amendment 66; Support Initiative AA; and, support efforts of Limon, Colorado to develop a Foreign Trade Zone.

Progressive 15 is a strong supporter of K-12 education in the state, however, Amendment 66 has some inherent flaws that the organization was not able to support. The two tiered taxing system creates an uneven support system; there appears to be little accountability or flexibility in the bill; and, the bill becomes a part of the constitution superseding the TABOR Amendment protection. Progressive 15 encourages all parties to continue to work on a workable solution for funding of not only K-12, but also higher education.

The Board of Directors did vote to support Initiative AA regarding sales tax on marijuana. As a group they did not support the legalization of marijuana, however, since it is now the law of the state, the taxation will help with enforcement, education, public safety and oversight.

Additionally, Progressive 15's board of directors voted to write a letter of support for Limon, Colorado, in their efforts to develop a Foreign Trade Zone. They are also encouraging the contiguous Progressive 15 counties to join the efforts. A foreign Trade Zone is defined as an isolated policed area adjacent to a port of entry (as a seaport or airport) where foreign goods may be unloaded for immediate transshipment or stored, repacked, sorted, mixed, or otherwise manipulated without being subject to import duties. As the Ports-to-Plains trade corridor is completed through Colorado's Eastern Plains such a zone could be beneficial for expanded economic development.

Progressive 15 is a membership organization working in legislative and policy advocacy. Further details about Progressive 15 can be found on our website at www.progressive15.org.