

PRINCIPLES GUIDING DRCOG LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

**As adopted by the DRCOG Board of Directors December 1982
And revised February 17, 1988, January 16, 1991, January 17, 2001, and January
18, 2023**

The Denver Regional Council of Governments' federal and state Legislative Program is defined by the character of the Denver region and the concerns of its local governments. The Denver region constitutes a unique area as distinguished from the rest of the state because its member governments comprise a large and highly urbanized population.

In the Denver region, the regional council, organized as a voluntary association of county and municipal governments, is the only regional spokesman for these entities. Due to DRCOG's regional character and local government orientation, the council is the appropriate forum for regionally focused legislative activity.

This self-imposed limitation to regional issues is reinforced by the activities of three other organizations, the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI), and Counties & Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT). As statewide associations of municipal and county governments respectively, their interests are correspondingly broad. As a consequence, they address the entire range of local government issues before the state legislature, state executive and regulatory agencies, and the federal government. Both associations generally avoid issues that are unique to an individual community or region.

In addition to regional issues, DRCOG is concerned with issues that affect the organization or its programs. The organization assumes the responsibility for identifying and promoting the regional interest in its various fields of planning and management to state and federal legislative and administrative bodies.

It is not the policy of the Legislative Program to address all legislative/administrative issues of interest to local governments generally. Support of or opposition to a bill or legislative funding measure will be given, and be subject to reassessment, according to the bill's or measure's consistency with DRCOG's adopted principles, policies and plans. Where appropriate, DRCOG will strive to collaborate with other organizations representing local government(s), such as CCAT, CCI and CML.

DRCOG's legislative activity generally will be focused on the following types of issues:

- 1. Proposals that affect DRCOG as an agency or which would affect one or more of its programs.**
2. Proposals of special significance to the Denver region.
3. Proposals that would have a unique effect upon local governments in this region.