

RESOLUTION In Favor of HB19-1257 and HB19-1258

Seeking Voter Approval to Retain TABOR Refunds

WHEREAS, Under TABOR, the state has returned more than \$3.4 billion to taxpayers rather than using these funds to pay for K-12 education, higher education, transportation and infrastructure, public health services, public safety and other critical services; and

WHEREAS, the cap imposed by Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) has required the state and local school districts to make deep cuts to P-12 public education funding; and

WHEREAS, the average per-pupil funding in Colorado in FY 2017-2018 was over \$2,000 less than the national average; and 49% of Colorado districts are on or have some schools on 4-day school week; and

WHEREAS, All but four of the 178 school districts in Colorado have obtained voter approval to retain and spend excess revenue above the TABOR limit; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's population has grown 53% since 1990 while the lane miles on our highways have only gone up by 2%; and 48% of Colorado bridges need preventative maintenance and 5% are structurally deficient; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure investment and construction jobs fuel our state's economy. Every \$1 billion invested in nonresidential construction creates and sustains more than 28,000 jobs and another \$1.1 billion in personal earnings; and

WHEREAS, Of the state's 272 municipalities, 230 municipalities have obtained voter approval to retain and spend all or a portion of excess revenue collected; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, the state funded two-thirds of a student's cost of higher education, while the student was responsible for one-third; and by 2016, that ratio had flipped and the state now funds only one-third; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado currently spends the third lowest amount of money on higher education per capita of any state in the country at \$3,769 per student; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that **PEBC** fully supports HB19-1257 and HB19-1258 sponsored by Speaker of the House KC Becker, Representative Julie McCluskie, Senator Kevin Priola, Senator Lois Court. HB19-1257 will provide voters with a choice to allow the state to retain the revenue it already generates off of growth in the economy; and HB19-1258 specifies the allocation of these measures, requiring that the revenue above the TABOR cap be spent $\frac{1}{3}$ each on public schools; higher education; and roads, bridges and transit.

We urge Coloradans to join us in supporting HB19-1257 and HB19-1258 and vote YES on Proposition CC in the Fall of 2019.