Resolution Regarding Ballot Issues Affecting Employers and Labor in Colorado

WHEREAS: The Metro Mayors Caucus is a collaboration of 38 Mayors in the Denver metropolitan region, formed to address issues of regional importance and scope; and

WHEREAS: The members of the Metro Mayors Caucus believe that the strong history of collaboration in the metro area and around the State of Colorado has provided valuable benefits to our citizens, to our economy, and to the quality of life in our communities; and

WHEREAS: The nation's economy is trending downward and the members of the Metro Mayors Caucus have a particular interest in working collaboratively to advance public policies that protect and strengthen metro Denver's economy, thus keeping municipal services at the highest level possible; and

WHEREAS: That history of collaboration in this State is now jeopardized by the potential threat of competing ballot issues on the November 2008 general election ballot, including a measure to make Colorado a “Right to Work” state, and several potential pro labor measures proposed in response to “Right to Work;” and

WHEREAS: Labor and management relations in Colorado have operated very successfully since 1943 under the balanced provisions of the Colorado Labor Peace Act, a modified “Right to Work” statute; and

WHEREAS: individually or as a group these measures put Colorado at a competitive disadvantage by jeopardizing
Colorado's healthy business climate in which Labor and management relations in Colorado have operated successfully under the balanced provisions of the Colorado Labor Peace Act; and

WHEREAS: these ballot measures could have serious consequences including mandated health care for employees and their dependents, strict new workplace safety standards, civil and criminal liability for company managers, and the end of "at will" employment in the state all of which will discourage the job creation, job growth, and job retention that drives the economic engine of metro Denver municipalities, in turn causing deterioration of municipal tax base;

Now therefore be it resolved that if these measures remain on or qualify for the November ballot, the members of the Metro Mayors Caucus will pursue individual, collective, and aggressive opposition to these measures and direct efforts to persuade voters to oppose them as they see fit.

Adopted by Consensus, July 7, 2008

Randy Pye, Mayor of the City of Centennial
Chairman, Metro Mayors Caucus