

Colorado Automobile Retailers “Rev up” at the Capitol

By Jeremy Cottrell
CAR Lobbyist

A new session has begun in the Colorado legislature. The 66th General Assembly marks the first time in nearly 40 years that both chambers and the Governor’s office are all controlled by the Democrats. With this transition there are many new, often costly, ideas at the capitol.

In his *State of the State* address, Governor Bill Ritter shared his vision of a “Colorado Promise” to focus on education, renewable energy, transportation, and a pro-business stance. He spoke of not moving left or right but moving forward, reaching across party lines to do what is best for Colorado.

With this new session Colorado Auto Retailers (CAR) represents the newly formed lobbying efforts led by CADA to remain in full compliance of Amendment 41. CAR is the new entity which will be staffed by Jeremy Cottrell and Mike Feeley as your lobbyists in the Colorado Capitol.

As the legislative session has already begun, there is a great focus on the repercussions of Amendment 41, the so-called “Ethics in Government” constitutional amendment. The breadth of those afflicted by the provision is much greater than the frequently mentioned lobbyists and legislators. It is estimated that those adversely affected could potentially reach a million or more Coloradans. All government employees and their immediate families fall within the affected category as well as independent contractors.

The campaign against 41, led by Tim Jackson and CADA, brought to light many of the weaknesses and ill-fated consequences of the poorly drafted bill. The legislature now must draft enabling legislation to clarify how Amendment 41 will be enforced and interpreted. Be assured CADA will keep Colorado dealers apprised of legislative outcomes handled in the Capitol by the CAR lobbying team and how those issues can affect the viability and success of your business.