



General Assembly
State of Colorado
Denver

February 14, 2014

Steve Zansberg
Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz, LLP
1888 Sherman Street – Suite 370
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Independent's request for press credentials.

Dear Mr. Zansberg:

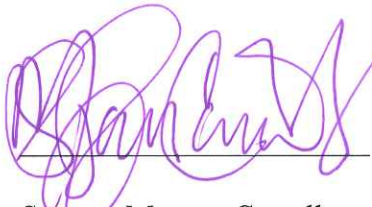
We are in receipt of your letter dated February 4, 2014, requesting the issuance of press credentials to *The Colorado Independent*. The Colorado Capitol Press Association recommendation that the *Independent* not be granted credentials is based on the Association's criteria for membership set forth in section 4 of the "Rules Governing the Colorado Capitol Press Association". Among the criteria in section 4 of the Rules for membership of a nonprofit media organization is that it works independently of any government, industry, or institution and does not engage, directly or indirectly, in any lobbying, political activity, or other activity intended to influence elections or any matter before the General Assembly and it must not be engaged in any lobbying or advocacy for any individual or political party or movement before the General Assembly or Colorado government. The Press Association has indicated that its recommendation for denial is based on the *Independent's* status as a nonprofit organization and its past and current affiliation with institutional funders and donors that engage in political advocacy.

We are going to honor the recommendation of the Press Association at this time based on the current criteria. However, we believe the criteria need to be updated. We intend to work on updating the criteria used and would encourage you to re-apply at that time. House Rule 3 (b) (7), Senate Rule 12 (a) (6), and section 2-2-404 (1), C.R.S., support the authority of legislative leadership to determine the members of the press who may be accredited and have access to the floor of either chamber. The criteria contained in the "Rules Governing the

Colorado Capitol Press Association” have been in place since 2008. The criteria for membership in the Press Association represent a cooperative effort between the General Assembly and the Press Association that balances the ability of the press to access the floor of both chambers and institutional considerations that ensure the orderly conduct of the legislative process.

As always, all media organizations continue to have access to the House and Senate galleries to observe floor debate without obtaining press credentials. And we are committed to working with the Colorado Capitol Press Association and all non-member news organizations in reviewing and possibly modifying the current criteria for membership.

Sincerely,



Senator Morgan Carroll
President of the Senate



Representative Mark Ferrandino
Speaker of the House of Representatives