



Dear Friend,

One year ago I stood before tens of thousands of Coloradans at the Democratic National Convention and shared my vision for building “**a country where ‘what can be’ becomes ‘what is’**”.

Shortly thereafter Barack Obama took the stage to accept our party’s presidential nomination and epitomize that hopeful vision, winning an historic election to become the 44th President of the United States.

Real change “comes from the bottom up.” That’s what the ritterforgovernor.com online community -- and my re-election campaign -- is all about.

We’ve taken action, *together*, to demand that the federal government keep toxic mercury waste off the Western Slope, to build a New Energy Economy, and to urge Washington to pass health insurance reform with a public option *now*.

Together we can create a brighter future and better tomorrow. This vision, a vision for Colorado and our country, is what continues to guide my work here in Colorado.

Working together we can continue leading Colorado forward. Working together we can make our fiscal voices heard. Please donate \$5, \$10, \$20 today. By focusing on grassroots donations, our campaign is built by everyday Coloradans like you.

In the face of a challenging economy my focus remains on making the most for Colorado families so that we can continue leading the nation’s recovery. By forging the path of a New Energy Economy, Colorado remains a template for the rest of the country.

Growing up in a working class family wasn’t always easy, and because of it I have experienced first hand the value of hard work and meaningful employment. When my father wasn’t able to find work my mother used food stamps to keep meals on the table. Because of this, I am stronger today.

That is one of the many reasons why I believe Colorado's working families come first. By creating good-paying and sustainable jobs, Colorado can compete and succeed in a 21st century global marketplace.

All too often I hear healthcare horror stories from everyday Coloradans like yourself. Stories of hard working Coloradans being denied coverage because of a pre-existing conditions. Stories of cancer patients who can no longer afford their treatment because they have hit a lifetime cap on their insurance claims. Stories like that of Nathan Wilkes, whose son Thomas was born with hemophilia. Although Nathan is facing ever increasing premiums and a \$6 million lifetime cap, the Wilkes are fortunate for a Colorado law which prohibits insurance companies from excluding pre-existing conditions for small business coverage.

It's because of stories like these that I worked tirelessly to enact the most significant healthcare reform measure in Colorado in four decades. The Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act will provide coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans, *at no additional cost* to taxpayers or business.

Colorado isn't waiting for Washington to fix healthcare. We're taking immediate action to control costs, expand access and improve quality.

Let's stand up to those cynics who want to see us fail, and see to it that our vision for Colorado stays on track. Help by contributing today.

Please make a contribution to my campaign today by sending back the accompanying business reply envelope or by going online to www.RitterforGovernor.com/thankyou. Together, we can continue to lead Colorado forward. I have set an ambitious goal, but together we can reach it. Can you help me raise \$50,000 before the September 30th reporting deadline by contributing \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100 today?

This campaign will go nowhere without people like you who are willing to donate their time to make sure we can keep leading Colorado forward together. If you are interested in volunteering during any period between now and election day, please check the appropriate box on the reply envelope and send it back.

Thank you for giving us the resources we need to stand up to those outsiders who seek to derail our progress.

Sincerely,

Governor Bill Ritter Jr.

