

Sunset Reviews

- SB-215, “Sunset Licensed Real Estate Brokers & Subdivision Developers,” Priola/ Gray
 - Concerning the continuation under the sunset law of the division of real estate, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the sunset report prepared by the department of regulatory agencies.
 - Consolidate the various cash funds used for several licensing functions and programs administered by the division of real estate into a single cash fund.
 - CCLT is monitoring.
- Sunset Review of the Conservation Easement Oversight Commission and Conservation Easement Holder Certification program
 - Focus on comprehensive implementation of conservation easement program at the Division of real estate. Will not focus on the existence of tax credit.
 - Research continues through first half of June, report creation, public release October 13.
 - Will contain recommendations for or against sunset with recommendations for program changes.
 - Bill would run in 2018, start in the House, up to speaker what committee
 - Contact Brian Tobias, brian.tobias@state.co.us, (303) 894-2994

Support

- SB-100, “Land Stewardship Volunteer Grantee Immunity,” Sonnenberg/ Ardnt & Landgraf
 - Waives liability for nonprofits who are building trails on public lands.
 - CCLT supports. Passed in the senate unanimously. Has passed through House committees and is being heard for house floor work on 4/7.
- SB-202, “Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects,” Coram/ Esgar
 - Appropriates \$1.5 million from the species conservation trust fund for programs submitted by the executive director of the department of natural resources
 - CCLT supports. Next action is Senate Appropriations unscheduled.

Monitor

- HB-1066, “Conservation Easement Tax Credit Landowner Relief,” Becker J & Lewis/ (none)
 - Bill’s scope to waive penalties and interest still in HB-11-1300 administrative process
 - In addition, a court may exercise its equitable jurisdiction to terminate a conservation easement for which a tax credit has been claimed in certain circumstances if the claim has been rejected.
 - CCLT monitored; bill Dead/Postponed Indefinitely on 2/1 in House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
- HB-1141, “Equal Protection From Federal Employee Personal Attack” Lewis/ (none)
 - Illegal for a federal employee to take any action for a range allotment
 - CCLT is monitoring this bill, called this “Cliven Bundy Bill.”
 - CCLT monitored; bill Dead/Postponed Indefinitely on 2/22 in House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Monitor (continued)

- HB-1165, “Department Of Regulatory Agencies Boards Disciplinary Action Resolution Process,” Lebsack/ (none)
 - Meant to only deal with health boards. There could be language that impacts our community around the Board of Real Estate Appraisers (BOREA) or how that board functions.
 - CCLT is monitoring. Next action is House Business Affairs and Labor on **3/21**.

Legislative Audit Committee

- Draft bill components:
 - Requires CEOC to identify strategic priorities and establish outcome goals for conservation easement tax credits;
 - Establish and publish criteria for approving and denying the tax credits; and
 - Establish and publish criteria and a method for decreasing the dollar amount that otherwise may be claimed for a credit
 - Requires the Division to expand its annual reporting requirements to include detailing the specific conservation benefits that conservation easements approved for tax credits provide to the state.
- Two drafts, stakeholder process on 3/14. Committee hearing on 3/21.

Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservation District

- Jay Winner (LAVWCD) and Peter Nichols (Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti)
- Diane Mitsch Bush (D-Steamboat Springs)
- Draft bill components
 1. Improve the timeliness of conservation easement tax credit application reviews
 - a. Elevating powers of CEOC, approval with CEOC
 - b. Create a new review process with Standard 3 USPAP review
 2. Improve program fee setting and fund management
 - a. Allow landowners to make a partial payment, balance due at time credit is approved.
 - b. A general fund allocation that wouldn't pay fully for the program, but a partial
 3. Improve communication regarding review standards to appraisers
 - a. Create a standard form for appraisals
 - b. Allowing appraisers to communicate with DRE regarding challenging or unusual appraisal issues before submitting their final appraisal for review.