



What is CLEAN? Regular people are at a major disadvantage to large corporations and moneyed interests when it comes to getting legislation passed through the Colorado Legislature — especially when the only people legislators hear from are special interests and corporate lobbyists. Further, residents are not aware of issues regarding bills until it's too late to voice their concerns. CLEAN (Community Legislative Early Action Network), seeks to level the playing field.

CLEAN provides Longmont Area Democrats (LAD) members, activists, and concerned Democrats up-to-date information on important activity in the Colorado House and Senate. Our goal is to be aware not only of bills being heard in the Legislature, but to provide people an avenue to influence the way bills are crafted, communicate the type of bills that we would like to see from our representatives, and help discourage “bad” bills from passing.

EARLY ACTION

Often, residents are not aware of issues regarding a bill until right before a vote is imminent, or when a bill is going to the last committee hearing, or until the final votes have already been cast. To be an effective advocate and have a greater impact on legislative outcomes, early action is the key!

CLEAN provides a unique opportunity for residents to personally communicate with their representatives on a regular basis, giving ordinary Coloradans a chance to have their opinions heard. If we succeed, we will encourage legislation that focuses on a community's needs instead of special interests.

HOW CLEAN WORKS

CLEAN will be a vehicle for interested people to work together in order to effectively advocate for issues that are important to residents. We will help disseminate that information through weekly conference calls, the LAD website, our FaceBook page, newsletters to CLEAN members and to our own representatives.

CLEAN members are encouraged to visit the Capitol on a regular basis to talk with legislators and observe the democratic process. Many representatives, especially Democrats, have an open door policy for their offices (when they are not in committee hearings). Members might also want to call and email legislators, (hand written letters make a difference), attend town halls, write letters to the editor of area newspapers, and even testify at House and Senate committee hearings. In other words, we will teach ordinary people how to be activists.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We request that the weekly conference calls be kept “off the record” unless otherwise indicated. The information shared on these calls should not be attributed to a specific legislator as it can affect their position as they negotiate bills. Feel free to use facts and figures when talking to legislators, but please use discretion (keeping the source confidential, for example).

Also, remember that even though our legislators and staff provide the news, all the information on our agendas is already publicly available and CLEAN members decide which bills they support and oppose on their own. Individuals can always make up their own minds.