

Sen. Tammy Story, *Chair*
Sen. Rhonda Fields
Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg

Rep. Edie Hooton, *Vice Chair*
Rep. Janice Rich
Rep. Donald Valdez



Capital Development Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 029
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784
(303) 866-3521



February 25, 2022

Representative Julie McCluskie, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative McCluskie,

This letter responds to your letter dated February 3, 2022, concerning sponsorship-based naming or renaming of buildings at higher education institutions that are paid for with state funds. Specifically, you asked whether the Capital Development Committee (CDC) has any policies or guidelines in place relating to higher education institutions' ability to name state-funded buildings. Further, you requested any information or opinions on the topic that the CDC is able to provide. The issue arose out of Colorado State University's (CSU) decision to rename the Shepardson Building, which is being renovated primarily with state funds, after an agricultural firm that donated money to the university. The CDC has no policies or guidelines in place regarding higher education institutions naming, or renaming, state-funded buildings after donors. The committee discussed this matter at a meeting on February 24, 2022, and concluded as follows:

- The naming of buildings and classrooms based on donations has been a common practice at higher education institutions for decades. Examples of state-funded buildings named after donors include the Kenneth King Academic and Performing Arts Center on the Auraria Higher Education Center campus, and the CoorsTek Center for Applied Science and Engineering on the Colorado School of Mines campus.
- The CDC is thankful for private-sector and individual financial contributions to higher education institutions.
- The CDC supports the ability of higher education institutions to raise money from outside sources, thereby relieving pressure on state funds.
- The CDC has no desire to create or implement policies on the naming of facilities or how money can be raised.
- State investment in higher education is insufficient, and the CDC supports efforts by higher education institutions to seek additional funding opportunities to augment state funding.

Attached for your information are the policies and guidelines governing CSU's naming of facilities. The CDC thanks the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) for continuing to refer issues to the CDC relating to capital construction, and seeks to effectively fulfill its role as an advisory body to the JBC on capital-related matters.

If you have any questions or concerns about the CDC's conclusions, please call Bo Pogue, Legislative Council Staff, at 303-866-5390.

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Sincerely,

Senator Tammy Story
Chair, Capital Development Committee

c: Capital Development Committee Members
Joint Budget Committee Members
Andrea Uhl, Joint Budget Committee Staff
Amanda Bickel, Joint Budget Committee Staff
Ashlee Pate, Department of Higher Education
Vanessa Reilly, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Capital Development Committee Staff