

Attachment B



Creation of the "In God We Trust" Special License Plate (SB23-025)

Senator Mark Baisley

Representative Shannon Bird & Representative Matt Soper

Bill Summary: *"The Bill creates the "In God We Trust" license plate for motor vehicles. In addition to the normal fees for a license plate, a person must pay 2 additional one-time fees of \$25 for the issuance of the plate. One of these fees is credited to the highway users tax fund and the other fee is credited to the Colorado DRIVES vehicle services account."*

Colorado Correctional Industries:

- 1) Manufacturing Colorado State Stamped License Plates Since 1913
- 2) Eighty-Nine Inmate Employee Program Teaching Life and Job Skills
- 3) Program Requires Two-Years Clean Inmate Record to Participate
- 4) Typically Twenty to Seventy Year-Old Manual Manufacturing Equipment
- 5) Upgrading Now from Traditional Stamped to Laminated License Plates

State Plates: Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Alaska, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, & Massachusetts

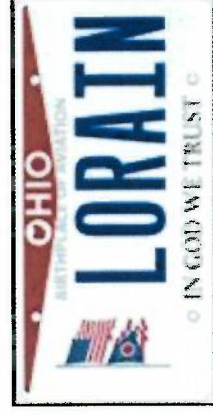
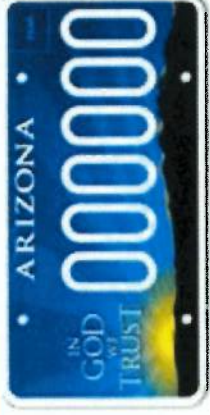
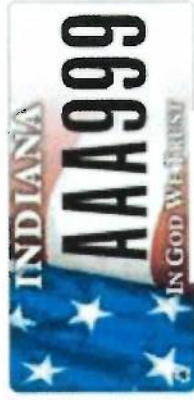
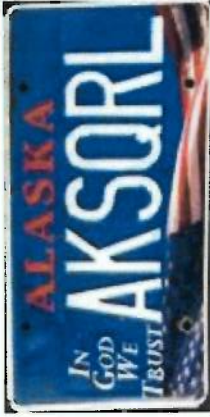
Territorial Plates: US District of Columbia, US Virgin Islands, US Johnston Atoll, US South Pole Station, CO Southern Ute Tribe, Nunavut Canadian Arctic, Haiti, British Virgin Islands, Saba Netherlands Antilles, & Republic of Palau

Government Plates: US Presidential Limousine, US Presidential Inaugurations, US Government, US Legislators & Consul Members, US Military, US Secret Service, US National Parks, US Park Police, CO Governor & State Elected, CO State Patrol, CO Department of Corrections, & CO Fire Fighters

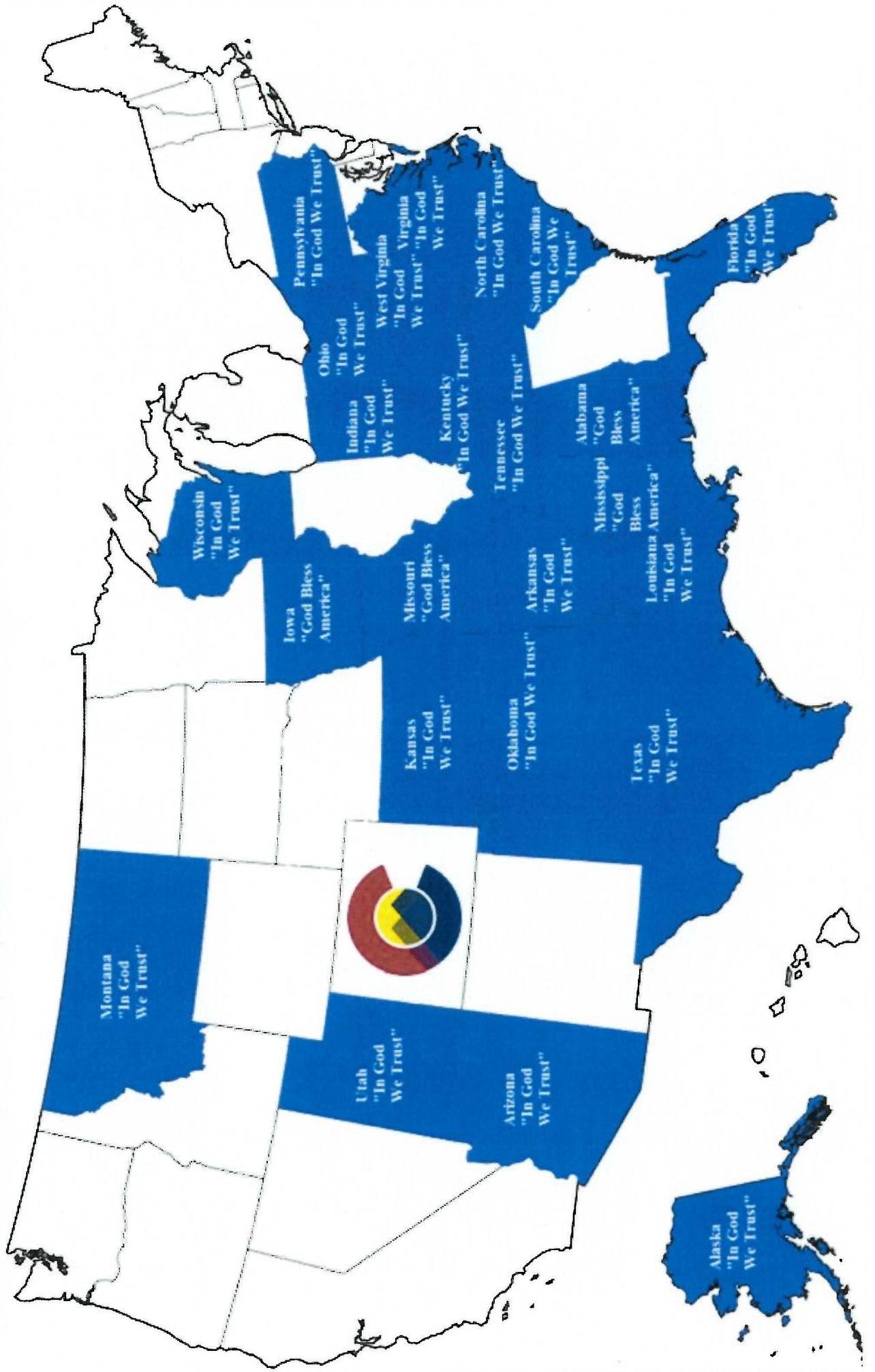
Special Plates: Handicap, Handicap Disabled Veteran, & Year of Manufacture

Support Colorado Correctional Industries (CCI)...Support SB23-025!

24x States "God Trust & Bless" Special License Plates



20x States "In God We Trust" Special License Plates
4x States "God Bless America" Special License Plates



John P. Priecko
PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Before the Colorado Senate Transportation & Energy Committee
(January 23, 2023)

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee, I am John Priecko, a Colorado Resident, and strong advocate for Senate Bill 23-025 that creates a Special *"In God We Trust"* License Plate for Colorado. I am honored to be here and support this worthy endeavor.

I am a grateful and proud Military veteran who served 25 years as a Pilot in the United States Air Force. Features of my career include a tour of duty on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon as the Chief of Strategic Operations and Training. Another highlight is serving as a B-1 Squadron Commander and Instructor Pilot.

The most rewarding efforts after my Military career, are as the Vice President, Global Trade Compliance, with J.P. Morgan Chase and Company. Additionally, and currently, I am the President and Managing Partner of Trade Compliance Solutions, a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business.

In the way of background related to this Legislation, my wife Sandy and I moved here from Northern Virginia in July 2019, to be closer to our two adult sons. When we registered our vehicle, we discovered Colorado did not have an *"In God We Trust"* or similar license plate as we did in Virginia and twenty-three other states.

In June of 2020, I attended an Independence Institute sponsored Leadership Conference in Denver and met Kurt Huffman from State Representative Mark Baisley's Office. A lunch time discussion with Kurt that day is the catalyst for this Special License Plate initiative. This full-size artist's concept represents what we envision as a very professional and visually appealing end-product. We believe our design is the best out there.

"In God We Trust" is the Official National Motto of the United States. It appears on our paper money, coins, in courtrooms, and on government and state office buildings across America. It is appropriate, fitting, and timely that Colorado creates an *"In God We Trust"* Special License Plate. I am passionate about our Country, our Flag, our National Motto, and this important effort.

My family and I urge passage of SB23-025. Further, colleagues, coworkers, friends, fellow veterans, and neighbors also support this Bill. Likewise, those same people look forward to purchasing and displaying the plate as soon as it can be purchased. Many have said they would buy it now if it was available.

Respectfully Submitted,

John P. Priecko
In God We Trust Program Director
Colonel USAF (Retired)
Life Member: Air Force Association & Disabled American Veterans
22683 East Glidden Drive, Aurora, Colorado 80016-7388
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Major General (ret) Joe Arbuckle U.S. Army
PERSONAL TESTIMONY
Before the Colorado Senate Transportation & Energy Committee
(January 23, 2023)

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee, I am a Colorado Resident and strong advocate for Senate Bill 23-025 that creates a Special "In God We Trust" License Plate for Colorado.

I attended junior high and high school at Littleton, then on to Western State College at Gunnison, where I graduated in 1968. The draft was looming which caused me to enter the Army. After retiring from the Army in 2000, my wife and I lived near Westcliffe for 16 years, moving to El Paso County in 2016.

54 years ago I swore to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic...so help me God" . As an infantryman, I fought in Vietnam upholding that sacred oath, along with millions of other loyal patriots. When swearing that oath to the Constitution, we recognize all of our Rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights and Constitution come from our "Creator". Rights are not given to us by man, they come to all people from God.

Recognizing this, I am dismayed as to why allowing citizens to voluntarily put on their license plates "In God We Trust" is even being discussed. There must be a small minority, who for some reason, do not want to see the word "God". Votes in state and national legislative bodies like yours are for the most part governed by a majority vote. So why is it that a minority of vocal activists are able to push an agenda against God when the majority of citizens recognize the existence of God even if they do not practice organized religion? Those who do not want to see the word "God" do not have to look at the plates and they certainly should not deny the 1st Amendment Right of freedom of religion and speech to those who do want to put God on their plates.

Additional considerations:

- o In God We Trust is our National Motto. So why can our National Motto not be on license plates?
- o In God We Trust is on forms of our national currency which everyone sees, so why can it not be on license plates?
- o Inside the U.S. supreme court is Moses holding tablets of the 10 commandments, coming from God.
- o The U.S. House of Representatives has In "God We Trust" inside the chambers.

This is not a church vs state issue. Our Constitution prohibits the establishment of a national religion like the Church of England in the 1700s. This issue has nothing to do with a national religion. "God" is a universal term applied to the "Creator" and is used by many religions. The term "God" may be objectionable to atheists but they are a minority and must not dictate majority decisions. As said before, anyone objecting to "In God We Trust" on a license plate does not have to look at it. Just like we do not have to look at the dozens of other designer license plates in Colorado which are personal preferences.

I close by saying I do not understand why this is an issue; the merits are obvious.



Joe Arbuckle
Major General
U.S. Army (retired)

Dear Representative Baisley,

I am writing to you today, on the occasion of your committee's hearing, in advocacy of the "In God We Trust" special license plate proposal. In supporting this matter, I write on behalf of the membership of the Mile High Flight 18 of the Order of Daedalians, a fraternal organization of US military pilots, navigators, naval flight officers, and flight surgeons from all of the five flying services, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. I salute our flight chaplain, Colonel John Priecko, for spearheading our support of this legislation.

Our state makes available to its motorists, from a wide variety of interest groups, specialized license plates promoting those groups' core values or activities. It is only right and fitting that the state also offer a license plate carrying the phrase, "In God We Trust", a powerful assertion that proudly adorns US currency and stands above the very entrance to our US Supreme Court building. Those profound words represent our national motto which underscores our most fundamental founding principle, that the cherished rights and civil liberties which every American and Coloradoan have enjoyed since our nation's founding, flow from God and natural law, not from men. These words are enshrined in our Declaration of Independence, which plainly states that we are endowed by our Creator with the "unalienable rights" to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", rights which are guaranteed to us each and every day of our civil and personal lives. It is for the foregoing reasons that we urge the creation of an optional Colorado special license plate emblazoned with the affirmation, "In God We Trust", which has guided this great nation's survival and success for nearly 250 years and for which we proudly risked our lives to preserve and protect.

Respectfully submitted,

LtCol J.D. "Bear" Owen (Ret)
16025 Quandary Loop
Broomfield, CO 80023

In God We Trust Testimony
Senate Bill 23-025
Senate Transportation and Energy Committee
January 23, 2023

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee. I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 23-025 that would create a special, "In God We Trust" license plate for Colorado.

My name is Linda White. My husband and I have been residents of Colorado for 40 years. We grew up in a small town in South Dakota where our belief in God, the importance of family and the love for our country was formed. We raised our 2 children with those same values and they have passed those values on to our 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren all of whom live in Colorado.

My Dad was a WWII veteran, my husband served in the National Guard and our son is a veteran of the Gulf War. I am honored to have been involved with the Rocky Mountain Northern Colorado Honor Flight and escorted WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials that honor their service to our country.

We are a family that is proud and grateful to live in a country that gives us the freedom to express our values and beliefs. Therefore, my family would be honored to display a Colorado license plate expressing our love of God and country.

Currently, none of the 133 special license plates available to Coloradans gives us the opportunity to depict this love of God and country. If we wanted a Greyhound Lovers, or a Pueblo Chile, or a Support the Horse, Share the Road, Support Pollinators or Carbon Fund license I could order one today. People who support "In God We Trust" deserve to have our values represented.

I urge you to pass SB23-025 so I and many others can proudly display a CO "In God We Trust" license on our vehicle.

Thank you,

Linda White
Hilltop Conservative Club, Chair
22931 E Del Norte Circle
Aurora CO 80016

Stephen C. Riecks

Written Testimony

Regarding Senate Bill 23-025

My name is Steve Riecks. I am a graphic artist living and working in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. I have been a resident of this great state for over 50 years. I am strongly in favor of the passing of Senate Bill 23-025, which would make available to drivers in Colorado, a Special "In God We Trust" license plate!

My father served in the United States Air Force and retired as a Lt. Colonel while serving at Lowry Air Force Base. My daughter and son-in-law are presently First Lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force. I personally have been blessed to travel to over 22 countries around the world. All of this has reinforced my thankfulness, that Colorado residents and United States citizens have the freedom to express our beliefs... whether religious, political, or social.

I have a strong love for God, the United States, and Colorado. This license plate would be a great addition to the many other options available to thousands of Colorado residents. People who support "In God We Trust" deserve to have their voices included and represented. Colorado would be the 25th state to have this option.

I was honored to be selected to create the design for this "In God We Trust" license plate. I would be proud to have it on my vehicle, as would many of my family members, friends and associates.

Sincerely,
Steve Riecks