



**West**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

December 10, 2020

Dear Western colleagues,

As we near the end of 2020, I want to thank you for your service to our Western states. It has been a privilege to serve as chair of CSG West this year, a year like no other.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us, our states and nation. In light of the COVID19 pandemic, CSG West has continued to fulfill its mission of convening policymakers and key stakeholders to learn from one another to address issues relevant to our western region, offering learning opportunities, and serving as a trusted source of information. With the direction and support of the Executive Committee and our partners, we were able to adapt to changing circumstances to deliver substantive programming and bring state leaders together.

While my colleagues in the Wyoming Legislature and I were disappointed in not being able to host you in Jackson for this year's annual meeting, we are grateful to all of you for helping us deliver the organization's first virtual annual meeting. The virtual annual meeting, which included over 30 policy sessions and attracted over 500 registrants, engaged attendees across a diverse range of topics and collective information sharing supporting our members and organizational mission.

Through the *Legislative Exchange Series*, which has complemented the work of the policy committees, we were able to convene legislators and legislative staff during the fall in virtual gatherings focused on development training and policy issues. Moreover, the Legislative Oversight Working Group produced a handbook that includes tips to conduct effective legislative oversight, and advances were made to secure funding to establish the Colorado River Forum among legislators of the river basin states.

The officers recently established the policy committees and programs for the 2021-2022 biennium, and in the incoming weeks CSG West staff will be soliciting legislative leaders to make appointments to those committees and programs. Please watch for information about programs and committee work in the coming months. If you have not previously participated in CSG West programs, I strongly encourage you to do so. A key event for the coming year is the 74<sup>th</sup> CSG West Annual Meeting scheduled to be hosted in Colorado Springs from July 19-22. It is our sincere hope that members will be able to convene in-person, once again.

AK • AZ • CA • CO • HI • ID • MT • NM • NV • OR • UT • WA • WY • AB • AS • BC • GU • MP

Sen. Michael Von Flatern, WY | *Chair, CSG West*  
Rep. Jeni Arndt, CO | *Chair-Elect, CSG West*

Rep. Clark Kauffman, ID | *Vice Chair, CSG West*  
Rep. Kimberly Dudik, MT | *Immediate Past Chair, CSG West*

Edgar Ruiz | *Director, CSG West*

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I am proud of the great work done this year. I want to thank my fellow officers and the CSG West staff for their insights and leadership during these challenging times. I wish all of you much health and success in the coming months as our communities and states continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Again, thank you for your support and for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Von Flatern'.

Senator Michael Von Flatern  
Wyoming State Senate  
Chair, CSG West