



**Hi Friend,**

Yesterday, we kicked off the First Regular Session of the 73rd General Assembly. It's always humbling to walk through the double doors of the House chamber, but after a hard year, I'll admit I breathed in a little deeper and looked around a bit longer. I have such reverence for this institution, for my colleagues, and for the state we dedicate our lives to serve.

It is tradition for the Speaker of the House to deliver remarks on Opening Day. Like most things recently, the ceremony looked a bit different. Even so, Emily and my parents watched from the gallery and we soaked up every moment. I chose to use my platform to speak to the legislature's plans for building back stronger, to find common ground across the aisle, and to lift up our shared values.

You can find the video of my full speech [here](#). But today, I want to share just a snapshot of my vision for the future. I hope you'll join me in our effort for a more equitable, more resilient Colorado.

All the best,

**Beyond Recovery**

Last year, as we wrapped up what became known as the 'COVID Session' in June, I stood in the well and told you that sometimes we make history and sometimes history makes us. We did what we could to minimize the damage and get relief out the door quickly.

History made us.

Today, we have a greater understanding of this virus and how to handle it. Coloradans are being vaccinated as we speak and the end of this pandemic is finally in sight. Now, it's our turn: we have a chance to make history by guiding Colorado towards a more prosperous, more just, and more equitable future.

The state we all love has been through tough times. But while some of our communities may feel battered today, we are far, far from broken.

The challenges Colorado faces are daunting. There's no denying that. In fact, this may be the most consequential year for this General Assembly in recent memory. But I'm confident that we're the right bunch to get it done.

This session, our top priority will be to see our state out of the public health crises and to work to usher in a swift economic recovery for Colorado's hardworking families and small businesses.

Our job as legislators this year is to level the playing field and give Coloradans the tools and resources they need to forge this recovery on their own. It's our job to mend the damage done by COVID - 19 and the economic downturn it caused, but Coloradans rightfully expect us to do much more. Just getting back to normal won't be enough.

We need to build back stronger for the people of Colorado. To build back a life that offers true economic opportunity and leaves no one behind. A life that affords us all a little more time to enjoy the things we love, because now, with a year under our belt, and a lifetime worth of empathy, we can all reflect on the things that matter most to us all: Food. Shelter. Safety. Justice. Equality. Prosperity.

With urgency and resolve, I am recommitted to doing the people's business.

Let's get to work.



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