

For Immediate Release:
September 14, 2006

**COLORADANS FOR CLEAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES OPPOSITION
Colorado Automobile Dealers Association and
Other Well-Connected Lobbyists Line Up to Oppose Ethics Reform**

Denver - Coloradans for Clean Government announced today that it welcomes opposition from the Colorado Automobile Dealers Association and other well-connected lobbyists to Amendment 41, the "Ethics in Government" initiative.

"Opposition from these lobbyists proves our point," said Pete Maysmith, co-chair of Coloradans for Clean Government (www.bangifts.org). **"Their ability to give gifts to legislators is so important to these lobbyists that they will spend their clients' money to fight our initiative. They can spin their arguments, but basically, the ethics reform cleans up lobbying and they don't like it."**

Jared Polis, co-chair of Coloradans for Clean Government, said: "This is a common-sense approach for higher ethical standards that Coloradans overwhelmingly support. It's unfortunate that a group of lobbyists is using bogus arguments to deflect from the real impact of this reform measure – a cleaner, more ethical government that represents the interests of Coloradans."

The Colorado Automobile Dealers Association has been organizing opposition to Amendment 41 since August 21. The most recent announced meeting is Friday, September 15 at the Association offices. The opposition campaign has not yet registered as a campaign committee, which is required by Colorado law.

Amendment 41 is a citizen-initiated ballot measure that bans gifts by lobbyists to government officials, establishes reasonable restrictions on gift-giving from non-lobbyists, creates an independent ethics commission, and establishes a cooling-off period of two years before former legislators can begin lobbying.

"We welcome the CADA opposition and that of other connected lobbyists," said Maysmith. "We only hope their arguments are more truthful in the future."

###

Coloradans for Clean Government is a six-member committee, co-chaired by **Pete Maysmith and Jared Polis**. Maysmith is national director of state organizations and campaigns with Common Cause; Polis is vice-chairman of the State Board of Education, an entrepreneur, philanthropist and civic leader. The other members of Coloradans for Clean Government are: **Ron Binz**, former state utility consumer advocate and state chair of Colorado Common Cause; **Martha Tierney**, a Denver attorney and government reform advocate who has worked with Common Cause for several years; **Shepard Nevel**, the chief of staff to Jared Polis and one of the authors, with Common Cause, of Denver's ethics code, adopted in 2001 and considered one of the strongest in the nation; and **Rex Wilmouth**, state director of the Colorado Public Interest Research Group, a public interest advocacy organization.