



B 2019 005

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Establishing the Commission on Employee Ownership

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Commission on Employee Ownership (“Commission”).

I. Background and Purpose

Employee-owned businesses benefit the State’s communities and citizens. Increasing the number of employee-owned businesses will help strengthen businesses and increase benefits for workers. Employee-owners tend to have higher wages, greater household wealth, and longer job tenure than workers who are not employee-owners. It's true that when employees succeed, businesses succeed, and when businesses succeed, so should employees.

As a record number of Colorado business owners reach retirement age, increasing employee-owned businesses across the State will ensure that local business will continue to offer necessary goods and services to communities beyond a business owner’s retirement. In a recent review of Colorado’s economic development and access to capital programs, the Council of Development Finance Authorities recommended that Colorado enhance its support for employee ownership, in part to help retiring business owners understand and implement business succession plans that include employee ownership.

To help the State meet the challenges of enhancing Coloradans’ job security, worker wages, and community cohesion, and to assist retiring business owners transition their businesses to future generations, I am establishing the Commission on Employee Ownership to support the development and advancement of employee-owned businesses across Colorado.

II. Mission and Scope

- A. The Commission shall be housed within the Office of Economic Development and International Trade.**



- B. The scope of the Commission shall be to support the development and advancement of employee-owned businesses by:
- i. Establishing a robust and wide-reaching network of technical support for businesses wishing to convert to employee ownership;
 - ii. Educating businesses and communities across the State on the economic and community benefits of employee-owned businesses; and
 - iii. Identifying barriers to the development and advancement of employee-owned businesses and recommending State actions and resources to remove such barriers.
- C. The Commission shall develop, in consultation with the Governor's Office, recommendations consistent with subparagraph B, above, and the Commission shall deliver such recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

III. Membership

- A. The Commission shall consist of no fewer than 10 and no more than 25 members, and the Commission shall reflect the geographic representation of the State when possible. The Commission may include, but is not limited to, the following:
- i. Between 10 and 18 members that are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Initial appointments to the Commission shall be for two-year or four-year terms, and thereafter members shall serve four-year terms. Members shall have experience and knowledge in the following areas:
 - a. Small business development;
 - b. Law;
 - c. Accounting;
 - d. Finance;
 - e. Employee-owned businesses;
 - f. Philanthropy; or
 - g. Public interest.

- ii. The Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, or his or her designee;
- iii. The Executive Director of the Department of Local Affairs, or his or her designee;
- iv. The Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, or his or her designee;
- v. The Executive Director of the Department of Labor and Employment, or his or her designee; and
- vi. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, or his or her designee.

IV. Staffing and Resources

The staff of the Office of Economic Development and International Trade shall provide support as feasible within existing resources to support the mission and activities of the Commission.

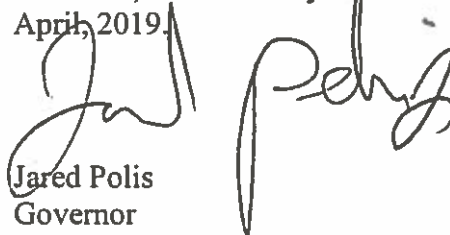
The Commission may consult with outside experts on issues related to the mission and scope of the Commission.

V. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this tenth day of
April, 2019.


Jared Polis
Governor