

fewer processing steps to make. This means that we can refine more fuel at the refinery which will increase our total fuel production with the same crude resources.

It seems that in this country people or things that can produce better results are penalized, while bad ideas like ethanol are supported. I guess diesel needs a good farm lobby.

Theodore A. Waibel, Lakewood

Insurance headed in wrong direction

Daria Stuart ("Break for the insured," Speakout, April 22) writes that since "Colorado's citizens and businesses deserve to know the real cost of the health-care insurance products they are buying," politicians should force insurance companies to provide "transparency." But we really deserve to know how politicians have inflated insurance costs in the first place.

Tax policy encourages employer-based insurance, which essentially chains us to one insurer. Shielded from competition, insurers need not compete on price very much.

State-level bureaucrats succumb to special interests by burdening small-group policies

with many benefits we do not need. The Congressional Budget Office reports that such mandated benefits increase premiums by at least 6 percent, and possibly more than 10 percent. It also reports that community rating laws increase premiums by 9 percent.

What's becoming increasingly transparent is where allegedly well-intentioned controls like House Bill 1389 will lead: politician-controlled health care and insurance where bureaucrats make decisions that rightfully belong to us and our physicians.

Brian T. Schwartz, Boulder

Is dismantling TABOR really best for us?

It all comes down to where one puts his trust. Do the people think House Speaker Andrew Romanoff or Rep. Douglas Bruce has done more to help the taxpayers of this state — the people who pay these politicians' salaries?

They are very good at taxing us and lying to us.

First, it was that Referendum C was the only thing we needed and if we got that we would have heaven on Earth — or at least in

Colorado. Now the colleges are still out billions, the roads are awful and the bridges are falling down, so let's dismantle the only thing that helps the taxpayers.

Trust us, lawmakers tell us, we don't want your money, we just want to help our state. Besides, you don't need it since, somewhere over the rainbow, food costs might go down and gasoline . . . well, you can walk. Hey, I am a nice-looking young Democrat and an all-around good guy who just about has his law degree. I wouldn't lie to you — you can trust me. Right?

Frank Galmish, Denver

Tough sledding, eh?

I had to smile at the *Rocky's* May 2 headline in the Business section indicating that Realtor Edie Marks "weathers toughest of times."

Meaning no disrespect to Marks, who is known for her generosity, hard work and graciousness, a Realtor who is making commissions on \$46 million in sales probably isn't fretting too much over the possibility of milk reaching \$5 a gallon. It must be tough for folks who are down to their last million though.

Kathryn Skosich, Littleton

Honor refuge deal

I would like to respond to "Using fear to despoil an Arctic refuge," the April 18 letter in the *Rocky Mountain News* by Bob Jennings about the so-called despoiling of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

What part of "deal" does Jennings not understand? The

"deal" that created the refuge came with 3,000 acres set aside for oil exploration. "We the people" have kept only one-half of the "deal." It is now past time to honor the other half.

And does it really matter how much we have estimated the oil reserves in the area? Do you really think the greedy oil companies will spend billions developing an area they find if it were all phony?

And another thing — 10 percent profits are not obscene if they're normal. Get a clue.

David Ihde, Steamboat

No true Democrat would vote for McCain

In his letter of April 24, "Commitment for Obama," George McCann stated that he is a Democrat who would vote for John McCain instead of Barack Obama. As he says, "Wake up, people." Now, perhaps he is still asleep to himself or has a bad case of amnesia because he can't see the implications of voting for the state quo with its rising food and energy prices, inflation, the war, etc.

If that is what he wants, McCain is a good choice. No Democrat would vote for McCain. Also, consider the fact that the next president is likely to name several members of the Supreme Court. That court will likely be looking at cases on abortion and other civil rights that are being trampled on by the Bush administration. McCain would appoint conservative judges that might put these matters in great jeopardy.

Finally, be aware that there is a good chance that McCain's vice president might well have to be over for him. As Forrest Gump said, "You never know what you're gonna get."

Letters policy

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