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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

CML STATEMENT ON ENACTMENT OF CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE LAW

June 9, 2017, Denver, CO – Despite the principled opposition of chiefs of police, county sheriffs, municipalities and counties throughout the state, HB 17-1313 was signed into law by Gov. John Hickenlooper this afternoon. The Colorado Municipal League is very disappointed with this outcome.

HB 1313 concerns civil asset forfeiture, a tool for law enforcement to curb criminal enterprises. Signing the bill severely impacts law enforcement's ability to partner with the federal government and each other to combat criminal activity such as black market marijuana distribution and human trafficking.

"Any discussion of civil asset forfeiture reform, specifically transparency, should have included the entities that engage in the practice," stated Sam Mamet, CML executive director. "We're disappointed."

In his signing statement, the governor calls for a task force to be created to address the concerns raised by opponents to the HB 1313, including CML. The League stands ready for a meaningful conversation around civil asset forfeiture reform – in particular, based on facts and not assumptions. Says Mamet, "The League will be happy to participate in any stakeholders process; we just hope the proponents of the legislation will listen to representatives of local government and law enforcement this time around, as the Governor has correctly asked."

CML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 269 cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit www.cml.org or call 303-831-6411.

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