

LISTEN TO OUR CONCERNS

DON'T TREAT RURAL COLORADO LIKE DENVER, SAY RURAL LAWMAKERS



MARIANNE GOODLAND, COLORADO POLITICS

Mackenzie Jensen, 17, who started a sheep business at age 15, wants to see improved facilities at the state fair.

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What rural Coloradans want most from the General Assembly is to be heard, according to most of the baker's dozen of lawmakers whose districts lie outside the urban corridor.

In the past, it's mostly been Republicans who represent those districts. On the Eastern Plains, that's still the case:

two state senators, who are cousins, cover everything east of the Denver metro area; and, two Republicans cover the Eastern Plains in the House.

The Western Slope delegation, however, got a lot more blue in the 2022 election, with Democrats representing parts of the state that have never elected Democrats before.

It doesn't hurt that the House Speaker

is from the Western Slope, the first to wield the gavel who comes from the region since Republican Rep. Russ George of Rifle, more than 20 years ago.

So, what concerns residents from those regions? And what do they want to see from the General Assembly in 2023?

If it's the Western Slope, it's water, water, water.

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RENT BILL

Fight over rent control ban surfaces at state Capitol. **Page 4**

HOUSING

Kill growth caps, environmental and housing advocates tell Gov. Polis. **Page 5**