THE COMMANDMENTS OF ADVOCACY

I. Thou shall register and vote; you must be in the game to play!

II. Thou shall know the players: your own legislators, the Committee Chairs, Legislative Leadership, LRC staff and the Executive Branch Secretaries, Commissioners and staff.

III. Thou shall know your issue well and relate that issue to your legislators, understanding there are many pressing concerns.

IV. Thou shall understand the process and rules of the game.

V. Thou shall make available accurate, reliable information to your legislators and other players in a timely fashion!

VI. Thou shall be creative in building coalitions and partnerships, looking for shared interests, educating others in your cause and working to “put a face” on your issue.

VII. Thou shall never underestimate your power as an individual to “change the world”.

VIII. Thou shall be willing to compromise, to put a foot in the door.

IX. Thou shall stay in touch with your legislators all the time – not just during the session.

X. Thou shall never give up…there’s always the next session!

XI. MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT: Thou shall treat the legislator or policy-maker as you would want to be treated – with courtesy, respect and a “Thank You”!