

Governor John Hickenlooper

136 State Capitol

Denver, CO 80203-1792

February 19, 2013

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for rising above the partisan squabbling that has unfortunately heightened a national oil and gas debate. Scientific evidence is being overpowered by an emotional public debate and your leadership will help us overcome this unjust polarization.

We appreciate that you are using your influence as Governor to seek a sensible energy balance – one that ensures rigorous regulation and enforcement, but in a way that is applied consistently and efficiently so that Colorado remains an attractive place to do business. Real political leadership is a rarity in the current environment. On energy issues, you have shown it, and you can be assured that a great majority of citizens, and many local elected officials, appreciate that leadership.

Those who have expressed criticism to your decision to take legal action against Longmont's overreaching and illegal oil and gas rules do not speak for all local governments, or the thousands of people who support the energy industry statewide. The energy industry is vital to our economic stability and in reality; the majority of citizens and local governments support the industry.

The proposed Longmont regulations will create a de facto ban on oil and gas production in large segments of their community. If left unchallenged, those regulations open the flood gates for other additional regulatory responses. The resulting chaos would create unclear expectations for local governments, and would discourage future investment in energy development in Colorado.

As you well know, Colorado doesn't take lightly its responsibility to manage, regulate and oversee oil and gas development. Our state has the most stringent, comprehensive oil and gas regulations anywhere in the country. Love them or hate them, these rules are widely acknowledged to be the most aggressive regulatory framework in the nation. Additional regulations are simply unnecessary.

Your position is backed by common sense. Colorado cannot have a quilt of hundreds of different sets of oil and gas regulations if the state is genuinely committed to a thriving oil and gas sector.

As local elected officials who actually represent an energy producing area, we share your view of the importance of the energy sector, and we applaud your authentic bipartisan leadership on oil and gas issues.

Sincerely,

Commissioner W.R. "Skip" Fischer, Adams County  
Commissioner Alice Nichol, Adams County  
Commissioner Erik Hansen, Adams County

Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, Arapahoe County  
Commissioner Nancy Doty, Arapahoe County

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Councilmember Chris Maslanik, City of Brighton  
Councilmember Kirby Wallin, City of Brighton  
Councilmember Cynthia Martinez, City of Brighton  
Councilmember Rex Bell, City of Brighton  
Councilmember Lynn Baca, City of Brighton  
Councilmember J.W. Edwards, City of Brighton  
Councilmember Wilma Rose, City of Brighton

Councilmember Ken Lucas, City of Centennial

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Councilmember Gene Bilodeau, City of Craig  
Councilmember Joe Bird, City of Craig  
Councilmember Jennifer Rily, City of Craig  
Councilmember Ray Black, City of Craig  
Councilmember Byron Willems, City of Craig

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Councilmember Lando Blakely, Town of Dinosaur  
Councilmember Toby Cortez, Town of Dinosaur  
Councilmember Guy Stults, Town of Dinosaur  
Councilmember Devonna Wilzek, Town of Dinosaur

Councilmember Richard Blakely, Town of Dinosaur  
Councilmember Bruce Long, Town of Dinosaur

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Commissioner Faye Griffin, Jefferson County

Commissioner Steve Johnson, Larimer County

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Councilmember Hugh McKean, City of Loveland

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Commissioner Rose Pugliese, Mesa County

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Commissioner Tom Gray, Moffat County  
Commissioner Audrey Danner, Moffat County

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Trustee Mary Allbee, Town of Parachute  
Trustee Roy McClung, Town of Parachute  
Trustee Tom Rugaard, Town of Parachute

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Councilmember Elaine Urie, Town of Rangely  
Councilmember Clayton Gohr, Town of Rangely  
Councilmember Lisa Hatch, Town of Rangely  
Councilmember Dan Eddy, Town of Rangely  
Councilmember Joseph Nielsen, Town of Rangely

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Commissioner Kai Turner, Rio Blanco County  
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Commissioner Mike Freeman, Weld County

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Councilmember Ronn Akey, City of Wray  
Councilmember Butch Hassman, City of Wray  
Councilmember Jodi Brady, City of Wray

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Commissioner Dean Wingfield, Yuma County  
Commissioner Robin Wiley, Yuma County