

*Tom Jankovsky*  
District 1

*John Martin, Chair*  
District 2

*Mike Samson, Chair Pro Tem*  
District 3



September 21, 2020

The Honorable Jared Polis  
State of Colorado  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

CC: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commissioners

Dear Governor Polis,

We proudly represent various sectors of Colorado's natural gas and oil industry. In a time of economic hardship, we share in the pain felt across Colorado's business community, with approximately 7,000 direct jobs already lost as a result of COVID-19, but we look forward to serving as a foundational driver in the state's economic recovery in the years ahead.

The proposed 2,000-foot setback rule before the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission would blunt any chance at that recovery. We entered into these rulemakings with a commitment to science, facts, data, and our communities, and are certain, based on the analyses provided, that our existing operational practices are protective of the communities and the landscape in which we live, work and play. This proposal stands in stark contrast to scientific objectivity, and undermines Colorado's proud democratic process, which just two years ago saw voters reject a similar setback proposal by a double-digit margin.

We were encouraged when you said that Senate Bill 181's passage would signal a coming end to Colorado's "oil and gas wars." Our industry was also happy with your call for no future oil-and-gas-related ballot measures through 2022. You made it clear that you wished to see Senate Bill 181 fully and responsibly implemented before supporting any additional changes to the state's regulatory landscape. This 2,000-foot setback proposal, which is closer to 2,400 feet given additional changes to measurement protocols, was never mentioned as part of the legislative intent, nor in comments made by yourself, nor any COGCC staff. Taken together, this underscores our surprise and grave concern with recent developments at the COGCC.

Our industry takes particular pride in our proactive work to protect public health, safety, welfare, the environment, and wildlife. We are proud to operate in a state which already employs some of the most robust and protective rules and regulations anywhere in the nation, and we are committed to playing a collaborative and additive role in the rulemakings prescribed by Senate Bill 181 and House Bill 1261.

In short, we are hopeful your leadership and calls for a balanced approach to industry regulation will be heeded. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

---

John Martin, Chair

---

Mike Samson

---

Tom Jankovsky

DRAFT