



April 25, 2022

The Honorable Jared Polis  
Governor of Colorado  
State Capitol Building  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Jared Polis,

We, the undersigned, write to thank you and the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) for adopting new financial assurance rules in order to protect public health, safety, welfare, the environment, and wildlife resources from oil and gas development.

Historically, Colorado's financial assurance program has been woefully underfunded, resulting in a severe shortfall in bonds leading to over 800 orphaned wells statewide in need of plugging and cleanup. Abandoned and orphaned oil and gas wells threaten public health, damaging our climate, clean air, lands, waters, wildlife and outdoor recreation.

In 2019, the Colorado Legislature passed Senate Bill 181 that changed the mission of Colorado's oil and gas regulators to prioritize protecting public health and safety. Part of this law required new financial assurances from operators to ensure oil and gas wells are plugged, the areas reclaimed, and that developments are not orphaned, leaving the cleanup costs to taxpayers. Colorado's new rules, last updated decades ago, require well owners to submit an "operator-specific financial assurance plan" to the COGCC. These new rules significantly increase financial assurance amounts, depending on the size of the operation.

We appreciate the COGCC's work to find the right balance reflecting a practical regulatory framework for Colorado's gas and oil industry that better protects Colorado taxpayers and the environment.

We applaud this new rule that helps fulfill the new COGCC mission, and we urge the United States Department of the Interior to also develop new rules that effectively manage oil and gas developments to protect our federal public lands, air and water.

**Western Leaders Network**

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Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to Colorado's future.

Sincerely,

Eva Henry  
Adams County Commissioner

Michael Lavey  
Mayor, City of Cortez

Emma Pinter  
Adams County Commissioner

Chris Hinds  
Denver City Councilor

Nancy Jackson  
Arapahoe County Commissioner

Amanda Sawyer  
Denver City Councilor

Juan Marcano  
Aurora City Councilor

Sheila Wheeler  
Dolores Town Trustee

Glenn Drummond  
Basalt Town Councilor

Jeanne McQueeney  
Eagle County Commissioner

Elise Jones  
Former Boulder County Commissioner

Matt Scherr  
Eagle County Commissioner

Guyleen Castriotta  
Mayor, City of Broomfield

Jessica Burley  
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Frisco

Heidi Henkel  
Broomfield City Councilor

Jonathan Godes  
Mayor, City of Glenwood Springs

Bruce Leslie  
Broomfield City Councilor

Shelley Kaup  
Glenwood Springs City Councilor

Jean Lim  
Broomfield City Councilor

Paula Stepp  
Glenwood Springs City Councilor

Austin Ward  
Broomfield City Councilor

JJ Trout  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Golden

Keith Baker  
Chaffee County Commissioner

Jonathan Houck  
Gunnison County Commissioner

Liz Smith  
Gunnison County Commissioner

Andy Kerr  
Jefferson County Commissioner

Gwen Lachelt  
Former La Plata County Commissioner

Tim Barnes  
Lafayette City Councilor

JD Mangat  
Mayor, City of Lafayette

John Kefalas  
Larimer County Commissioner

Kristin Stephens  
Larimer County Commissioner

Ashley Stolzmann  
Mayor, City of Louisville

Wendy Miller  
Lyons Town Trustee

Janice Bryan  
Mancos Town Trustee

Alan Apt  
Former Nederland Town Trustee

John Clark  
Mayor, Town of Ridgway

Tim Corrigan  
Routt County Commissioner

Thomas McCracken  
Saguache County Commissioner

Dan Shore  
Mayor, City of Salida

Hilary Cooper  
San Miguel County Commissioner

Lance Waring  
San Miguel County Commissioner

Art Goodtimes  
Former San Miguel County Commissioner

Kim Langmaid  
Mayor, Town of Vail