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

Sincerely,

Eva Henry  
Adams County Commissioner

Emma Pinter  
Adams County Commissioner

Nancy Jackson  
Arapahoe County Commissioner

Juan Marcano  
Aurora City Councilor

Glenn Drummond  
Basalt Town Councilor

Elise Jones  
Former Boulder County Commissioner

Guyleen Castriotta  
Mayor, City of Broomfield

Heidi Henkel  
Broomfield City Councilor

Bruce Leslie  
Broomfield City Councilor

Jean Lim  
Broomfield City Councilor

Austin Ward  
Broomfield City Councilor

Keith Baker  
Chaffee County Commissioner

Michael Lavey  
Mayor, City of Cortez

Chris Hinds  
Denver City Councilor

Amanda Sawyer  
Denver City Councilor

Sheila Wheeler  
Dolores Town Trustee

Jeanne McQueeney  
Eagle County Commissioner

Matt Scherr  
Eagle County Commissioner

Jessica Burley  
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Frisco

Jonathan Godes  
Mayor, City of Glenwood Springs

Shelley Kaup  
Glenwood Springs City Councilor

Paula Stepp  
Glenwood Springs City Councilor

JJ Trout  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Golden

Jonathan Houck  
Gunnison County Commissioner
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liz Smith</td>
<td>Gunnison County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Kerr</td>
<td>Jefferson County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gwen Lachelt</td>
<td>Former La Plata County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Barnes</td>
<td>Lafayette City Councilor</td>
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<td>JD Mangat</td>
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<td>John Kefalas</td>
<td>Larimer County Commissioner</td>
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<td>Kristin Stephens</td>
<td>Larimer County Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Stolzmann</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Louisville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Miller</td>
<td>Lyons Town Trustee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Apt</td>
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<td>John Clark</td>
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<td>Tim Corrigan</td>
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<td>Dan Shore</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Salida</td>
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<td>Hilary Cooper</td>
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<td>Lance Waring</td>
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<td>Art Goodtimes</td>
<td>Former San Miguel County Commissioner</td>
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<td>Kim Langmaid</td>
<td>Mayor, Town of Vail</td>
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