

Thank Your State Legislators for Voting YES on Oil & Gas Rules Bill

The Oil and Gas Rules Bill (HB 1292) passed the state Senate March 25, 2009! Only the signature of Gov. Bill Ritter, who led the call for the new drilling guidelines, remains for these crucial new protections. Our state legislators deserve our thanks!

What You can Do

- 1) Write/Call/email Governor Ritter and your legislators and say “Thanks!” (see contact information below)
- 2) Write a Letter to the Editor to your local paper. LTEs are a very effective too to get our message out!
- 3) For assistance, call Frank Smith at 970-256-7650 or frank@wccongress.org, he will help you draft and submit an LTE.

Message

Points to make in your letter:

- 1) Thank your Representative and Senator for voting yes on HB 1292 – the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) oil and gas protections for Colorado – not giving in to the oil and gas industry’s efforts to delay or stop the rules from taking effect.
- 2) The oil and gas industry is important to Colorado, but development must be done right to ensure it does not negatively impact other revenue generators like recreation, hunting and fishing, and tourism.
- 3) The oil and gas industry uses many toxic chemicals that have gotten into people’s water supplies and impacted air quality around homes, schools and hospitals. The COGCC rules will protect public health.

Sample Letter (please feel free to edit!)

Dear Representative/Senator _____:

I wanted to take a minute and thank you for voting in favor of the Oil and Gas Rules Bill (HB 1292) with no amendments.

This is a strong bill that addresses a growing problem and once again makes Colorado a leader in protecting the public’s quality of life. When the price of gas goes back up and the projected drilling projects begin, it’s necessary that any impacts to our public health and wildlife be safeguarded. This bill is good for Colorado and all Coloradans.

While extracting energy resources is important, the oil and gas industry should not be given priority over other important industries, such as recreation, hunting and fishing, and tourism. The new rules will ensure the oil and gas development respects other important revenue generators in the state.

Your “yes” vote on HB 1292 is a huge first step towards common sense solutions that protect our public health, water and wildlife.

Thank you,
((Your Name))
((Your Address))

Who to contact:

Bill Ritter, Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792
(303) 866-2471

Email: [Http://www.colorado.gov/apps/oit/governor/citizen/assistanceUtility/shareOpinionGovOffice.jsf](http://www.colorado.gov/apps/oit/governor/citizen/assistanceUtility/shareOpinionGovOffice.jsf)

Legislators who voted for the new oil & gas rules:

- Phone numbers and email addresses provided
- Click on the name of the respective lawmaker to find their embedded email address

State Senate

- [Sen. Pres. Peter Groff](#) (Dist 33) 303-866-3342
- [Sen. Bob Bacon](#) (Dist 14) 303-866-4841
- [Sen. Betty Boyd](#) (Dist 21) 303-866-4857
- [Sen. Morgan Carroll](#) (Dist 10) 303-866-4879
- [Sen. Joyce Foster](#) (Dist 35) 303-866-4875
- [Sen. Dan Gibbs](#), (Dist-16) 303-866-4873;
 - Grand, Summit, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Jefferson, and Boulder Counties
- [Sen. Rollie Heath](#) (Dist 18) 303-866-4872
- [Sen. Mary Hodge](#) (Dist 25) 303-866-4855
- [Sen. Evie Hudak](#) (Dist 19) 303-866-4840
- [Sen. Jim Isgar](#), (Dist-6) 303-866-4884
 - Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Dolores, Montezuma, Archuleta, La Plata
- [Sen. Moe Keller](#) (Dist 20) 303-866-2585
- [Sen. John Morse](#), (Dist-11) 303-866-6364; El Paso County
- [Sen. Linda Newell](#) (Dist 26) 303-866-4846
- [Sen. Chris Romer](#) (Dist 32) 303-866-4852
- [Sen. Paula Sandoval](#) (Dist 34) 303-866-4862
- [Sen. Gail Schwartz](#), (Dist-5) 303-866-4871
 - Delta, Gunnison, Chaffee, Pitkin, Hinsdale, Mineral, Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Costilla, & Conejos Counties
- [Sen. Brandon Shaffer](#) (Dist 17) 303-866-5291
- [Sen. Abel Tapia](#), (Dist-3) 303-866-2581;
- [Sen. Lois Tochtrop](#) (Dist 24) 303-866-4863
- [Sen. Jennifer Veiga](#) (Dist 31) 303-86-4861
- [Sen. Suzanne Williams](#) (Dist 28) 303-866-3432

House of Reps

- [House Speaker Terrance Carroll](#) (Dist 7) 303-866-2346
- [Rep. Dennis Apuan](#) (Dist 17) 303-866-3069
- [Rep. Debbie Benefield](#) (Dist 29) 303-2950
- [Rep. Edward Casso](#) (Dist 32) 303-866-2964
- [Rep. Lois Court](#) (Dist 6) 303-866-2967
- [Rep. Kathleen Curry](#) (Dist 61) 303-866-2945
 - Gunnison, E. Garfield County, Pitkin, and SW Eagle Counties
- [Rep. Mark Ferrandino](#) (Dist 2) 303-866-2911
- [Rep. Randy Fischer](#) (Dist 53) 303-866-2917
- [Rep. K. Jerry Frangas](#) (Dist 4) 303-866-2954
- [Rep. Sara Gagliardi](#) (Dist 27) 303-866-2962
- [Rep. Gwyn Green](#) (Dist 23) 303-866-2951

- [Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst](#) (Dist 10) 303-866-2915
- [Rep. Joel Judd](#) (Dist 5) 303-866-2925
- [Rep. John Kefalas](#) (Dist 52) 303-866-4569
- [Rep. Andrew Kerr](#) (Dist 26) 303-866-2939
- [Rep. Jeanne Labuda](#) (Dist 1) 303-866-2966
- [Rep. Claire Levy](#) (Dist 13) 303-866-2758
- [Rep. Beth McCann](#) (Dist 8) 303-2959
- [Rep. Buffie McFadyen](#) (Dist 47) 303-866-2905
- [Rep. Anne McGihon](#) (Dist 3) 303-866-2921
- [Rep. Michael Merrifield](#) (Dist 18) 303-866-2932
- [Rep. Karen Middleton](#) (Dist 42) 303-866-3911
- [Rep. Joe Miklosi](#) (Dist 9) 303-866-2910
- [Rep. Sal Pace](#) (Dist 46) 303-866-2968
- [Rep. Cherylin Peniston](#) (Dist 35) 303-866-2843
- [Rep. Jack Pommer](#) (Dist 11) 303-866-2780
- [Rep. Dianne Primavera](#) (Dist 33) 303-866-4667
- [Rep. Joe Rice](#) (Dist 38) 303-866-2953
- [Rep. Jim Riesberg](#) (Dist 50) 303-866-2929
- [Rep. Ellen Roberts](#) (Dist-59) 303-866-2914;
 - La Plata, Archuleta Counties
- [Rep. Su Ryden](#) (Dist 36) 303-866-2942
- [Rep. Christine Scanlan](#) (Dist-56) 303-866-2952;
 - Eagle, Summit, Lake Counties
- [Rep. Sue Schafer](#) (Dist 24) 303-866-5522
- [Rep. Judy Solano](#) (Dist 31) 303-866-2918
- [Rep. John Soper](#) (Dist 34) 303-866-2931
- [Rep. Nancy Todd](#) (Dist 41) 303-866-2919
- [Rep. Ed Vigil](#) (Dist 62) 303-866-2916;
 - Mineral, Rio Grande and much of the San Luis Valley
- [Rep. Paul Weissmann](#) (Dist 12) 303-866-2348
- [Click here](#) for a complete list of all Colorado State Legislators

Background

On Wednesday morning the Colorado Senate passed House Bill 1292, which provides a broad series of new protections that will safeguard the state’s public health, environment and wildlife while promoting a healthy, thriving energy industry.

The new safeguards embody common-sense approaches such as prohibiting new oil and gas facilities within 300 feet of a public water supply, requiring companies to identify chemicals used in drilling and opening communication between oil and gas operators, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to help protect wildlife and public health from long-term effects of drilling.

In 2007 the Colorado Legislature addressed this need by passing – with strong bi-partisan support – laws that directed the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) to update its public health, water and wildlife protections for oil and gas drilling for the first time since the 1970s.

The updated protections were passed unanimously by the COGCC in December of 2008. Ratified by the state House and



Senate, the new rules will ensure that oil and gas drillers don't take shortcuts in their rush to drill; they are balanced and sensible, and reflect substantial input from local governments, the oil and gas industry, property owners, and conservation groups.

For more information, contact:

- Frank Smith, Western Colorado Congress, (970) 256-7650, frank@wccongress.org
- Kurt Kunkle, Colorado Environmental Coalition, (303) 405-6702, kurt@cecenviro.org
- Matt Garrington, Environment Colorado, (303) 573-3871 x310, mgarrington@environmentcolorado.org