

SECOND BILL TO BE HEARD

TESTIMONY

My name is Marilyn Hughes and I am a resident of Longmont Colorado. My address is 1126 4th Ave. I am in opposition to bill **SB15-093** that would fast track "takings". This is an issue that needs time and careful consideration. Important decisions should not be "fast tracked". And just how will "compensation" for oil or gas left in the ground be fairly determined?

I voted for the charter amendment that banned fracking within the Longmont city limits. Our community determined through much research that Oil and Gas as represented by the COGCC was not interested in citizen's health or safety. The only way to protect ourselves was a ban while more studies were done regarding water and air pollution, effects of noise and dust and the distinct possibility of leaking toxic chemicals from wells. (which did not get inspected regularly.)

Passing this ban set off a firestorm of lawsuits against our home rule city. (How dare we try to protect our community!)

When I first testified in the Senate committee against this bill, which would force municipalities like ours to compensate mineral rights owners, I heard comments from Senators like: "will this bill help discourage bans and moratoriums?" Or "Do you think THEY will listen to the Blue Ribbon Commissions' suggestions?" The comments I heard then made me feel that the purpose of this bill was not to

be fair to mineral rights owners but to intimidate and threaten communities and counties who were trying to protect themselves.

But then I thought. OK I'll hear what the commission comes up with. Having paid attention to the hearings I knew there were some citizen friendly recommendations like:

Change the mission of the COGCC from foster development to administer. VOTED DOWN.

Or Create independent ombudsman to help Coloradoans with unresolved concerns. VOTED DOWN

Or Local government land use can be stricter than state rules
VOTED DOWN

or increase water monitoring VOTED DOWN and so on with at least 10 recommendations that would have (if passed) gone a long way in helping solve our our state/local issues.

So it became even clearer to me that it is up to citizens to protect themselves.

WHAT GOT PASSED?.. nothing substantial enough to fully resolve the issues, namely local control.

Let me list some of the verbs used in the statements which passed. These make it clear how insubstantial the recommendations are: Local governments can PARTICIPATE more IN SITING WELLS,

There will be a STUDY how truck traffic can be reduced.

CREATE a "clearinghouse" within the CEO for all oil and gas information

So we are back to ground zero as far as I can see and if Senators and Representatives think the way to solve this local control/state control conundrum is by passing intimidating bills then they should be expecting more citizen activism not less.