

VERSION #3B

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

The constitution of the state of Colorado is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE: ***

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS INCLUDING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

SECTION 1. PURPOSES AND FINDINGS.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO FIND AND DECLARE THAT THE CONDUCT OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, MAY IMPACT PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT; THAT ANY IMPACTS ARE EXPERIENCED MOST DIRECTLY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES; THAT THE CITIZENS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE HISTORICALLY RELIED UPON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO REGULATE LOCAL LAND USES AND TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL LAND USE CONFLICTS BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT; THAT TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT, THE PEOPLE DESIRE TO EXPAND THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BY VESTING IN THEM THE RIGHT TO REGULATE OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS.

SECTION 2. GRANT OF AUTHORITY.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO HEREBY VEST THE RIGHT, POWER AND AUTHORITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO REGULATE OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS WITHIN THEIR GEOGRAPHIC BORDERS; THIS RIGHT, POWER AND AUTHORITY INCLUDES THE ABILITY TO ENACT PROHIBITIONS OR LIMITS ON OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS, INCLUDING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING. LOCAL LAWS, REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES, OR CHARTER PROVISIONS MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE AND PROTECTIVE OF A COMMUNITY'S HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE AND ENVIRONMENT THAN LAWS THAT MAY BE ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY EXECUTIVE AGENCIES OF THE STATE. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS" MEANS EXPLORATION FOR AND PRODUCTION OF COLORADO'S OIL, GAS, OTHER GASEOUS AND LIQUID HYDROCARBONS, AND CARBON DIOXIDE. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO EVERY COLORADO CITY, TOWN, COUNTY, AND CITY AND COUNTY, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF ARTICLE XX, OR SECTION 16 OF ARTICLE XIV, OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION.

SECTION 3. SELF EXECUTING, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.

ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE ARE SELF-EXECUTING, ARE SEVERABLE, AND SHALL SUPERSEDE CONFLICTING STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. LAWS AND REGULATIONS MAY BE ENACTED TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF THIS ARTICLE, BUT IN NO WAY SHALL THEY LIMIT OR RESTRICT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE OR THE POWERS AND RIGHTS HEREIN GRANTED. IF ANY LOCAL LAW, REGULATION, ORDINANCE, OR CHARTER PROVISION ENACTED OR ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE CONFLICTS WITH A STATE LAW OR REGULATION, THE MORE RESTRICTIVE AND PROTECTIVE LAW OR REGULATION SHALL GOVERN.