



February 17, 2009

Representative Kathleen Curry  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Honorable Representative Kathleen Curry,

We are writing today to ask your committee for your support to clarify the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) rules currently under review by the General Assembly. We specifically agree with the concepts HB 09-1255 instills, especially protection of private property rights and ratifying landowners' ability to manage their own private land, rather than granting this to state agencies. This bill encourages best management practices for wildlife, but also clarifies that the landowner must consent to wildlife restrictions recommended by the State.

As Moffat County Commissioners we are concerned that the new rules have shaken our economy and are now forcing many oil and gas companies to lay down rigs and through the ripple effect, lay off employees and contractors. Our communities cannot afford for this to continue. We are asking that you please consider sensible, targeted revisions to the COGCC rules that will allow energy companies to once again increase their investments in Colorado.

We support HB 1255 which will clarify the Colorado Division of Wildlife's role in consultations with respect to oil and gas regulation. As currently proposed in the rules and regulations, CDOW will soon have decision making authority never before granted to the Division. We believe this new authority goes far beyond what the General Assembly envisioned when it enacted the legislation in 2007 to provide a consultative role for the DOW regarding wildlife.

HB 1255 simply affirms the Division of Wildlife's consultative role in the COGCC permitting process, with regulatory and decision making authorities still vested at the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. HB 1255 is necessary policy, providing a needed framework in which all stakeholders may work together.

We thank you for your fair hearing of this bill. We strongly believe HB 1255 follows the intent of the original 2007 legislation that required the General Assembly to review the new rules. Please vote Yes on House Bill 1255 to provide certainty and balance to responsible mineral development in Colorado.

Energy production is critical to the economic vitality of Moffat County and natural resources accounts for 70% of our tax base. The oil and gas industry has created thousands of jobs in Northwest Colorado and has built strong small businesses and commercial businesses. Natural resources are the base of our economy. We thank you for your consideration and time in this issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Gray  
Commissioner

Audrey Danner  
Commissioner

Tom Mathers  
Commissioner

**COMMISSIONERS**

221 West Victory Way, Suite 130  
Craig, CO 81625  
(970) 824-5517  
(970) 824-9191 (fax)

Tom Gray  
District 1

Audrey Danner  
District 2

Tom Mathers  
District 3