

July 28, 2020

The Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, Colorado 80203

CC: Jeff Robbins, Chair
Dan Gibbs
Bill Gonzales
Karin McGowan
John Messner
Priya Nanjappa
John Putnam

RE: Business Support for Oil & Gas Reform Under the Mission Change Rulemaking

To: The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

We, as members of the Colorado Outdoor Business Alliance, encourage the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to adopt the comprehensive reforms proposed by the Mission Change Rulemaking series. We stand in strong support of building a robust, multi-faceted and locally-driven economy which requires protection of our public lands, waterways, and community health.

We believe it is crucial for oil and gas operations in Colorado to prioritize the health and safety of our citizens beyond a sheer profit motive. Adopting common sense regulations like setbacks from residential housing or considerations for groundwater filtration will not be to the detriment of those Colorado communities who rely on the extractive resource economy; it simply demands those industries take accountability for their role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Oil and gas has a place in our state economy, but only insofar as the well-being of communities and more stable economic drivers - like the outdoor recreation industry - are given adequate consideration. The boom-and-bust cycle of oil & gas has been written into the history of our state. Prioritizing those industries, in isolation, will inevitably lead to similar outcomes and hurt small business during periods of economic downturn.

Outdoor recreation creates 511,000 direct jobs and \$62 billion in economic impact, supporting storefronts, outfitters, production companies, restaurants, hospitality, and everything in between. People are drawn to Colorado - as transplants and tourists - by the awe-inspiring natural beauty of our state's many wild landscapes. Reforming Colorado's oil and gas practices opens the door to more meaningfully protect our greatest assets from negligent extraction practices that, in many cases, lead to widespread contamination affecting our lands and wildlife.

Colorado sits at the precipice of two great crises - COVID-19 and the ongoing endangerment of our lands, waters, and climate. As our state seeks to reopen, now more than ever we need to adopt ambitious public health related measures, especially given those most affected by the pandemic statistically live in highly polluted areas.

We have demonstrated that economic development and conservation are not mutually exclusive; the only reasonable path-forward for the oil and gas industry is one based around a strong conservation ethic. The reforms proposed by the Mission Change Rulemaking are exactly what Coloradans and the business community have been waiting for - we applaud the decision makers who have shepherded this policy thus far.

As Colorado businesses across the state, we intimately understand the intricacies of our respective regions' economies and what our communities need. Please heed our call and join us as advocates for comprehensive oil and gas reform - our lands, water, and outdoor recreation-based economies depend on it.

Sincerely,

The Colorado Outdoor Business Alliance and below signed members

Alpacka Raft
Sarah & Thor Tingey
Mancos, CO

Aspen Real Life
Jillian Livingston
Aspen, CO

Bext360
Allyson Quijano
Golden, CO

Americas for Conservation
+ the Arts 501c3
Irene Vilar
Denver, CO

Aspen Skiing Company
Hannah Berman
Aspen, CO

Bonsai Design
Sarah Shrader
Grand Junction, CO

Alternative Power
Enterprises, Inc
Jill Markey
Ridgeway, CO

Atlasta Solar Center
Christopher Campbell
Grand Junction, CO

Durango Outdoor Exchange
Chase LaCroix
Durango, CO

All Metals Welding and
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Chris A. Muhr
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Backcountry Experience
Brandon Mathis
Durango, CO

Ecliptic Imagery LLC
Robert Bogatin
Longmont, CO

Envision.Believe.Create.
Marketing
Susie Kincade
Eagle, CO

Fourpoints
Kevin Webber
Denver, CO

The Gear Junction
Jacob Thaden
Grand Junction, CO

Health Rising Wellness
Debra Cahill
Grand Junction, CO

High Desert Life Outdoors
Jeff Mobley
Cortez, CO

Hunt to Eat
Mahting Putelis
Wheat Ridge, CO

Icelandic Skis
Annelise Loevlie
Golden, CO

ID Sculpture
John Ryan
Gunnison, CO

Jeffrey Turre Acupuncture
Dr. Jeffrey Turre
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Liberty Skis
Dan Chalfant
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MAD Racing Colorado
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Mayfly Outdoors
Art Webb
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Mountain Waters Rafting
James Wilkes,
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Kristy Anderson
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Oveja Negra
Lane Willson
Salida, CO

Pine Needle Dry Goods
Martin Emmes
Durango, CO

Pine Needle Mountaineering
Eric Dixon
Durango, CO

PRIMI Pasta & Wine Bar
Tracy Regan,
Durango, CO

Pro Management &
Associates
Kevin Kuns
Montrose, CO

Relish Studio
Stu Swineford
Black Hawk, CO

Revel Bikes, Inc.
Adam Miller,
Carbondale, CO

Rig to Flip
Cody Perry
Grand Junction, CO

Roan Creek Ranch
Kathryn Bedell
Grand Junction, CO

Ruby Canyon
Environmental
Michael Cote
Grand Junction, CO

Salida Mountain Sports
Nate Porter
Salida, CO

San Juan Angler
Cole Glenn
Durango, CO

Scott's Roofing and Solar
Marcie Warner
Lafayette, CO

Sticker Art, Inc.
Bryant AuCoin
Durango, CO

Steamboat Flyfisher
Johnny Spillane
Steamboat Springs, CO

Suffer Better
Peter Downing
Denver, CO

Sunrabbit Clean Transport
Chris Cambell
Grand Junction, CO

Timberline Event LLC
Paul Vanderheiden
Englewood, CO

Velorution Cycles
Zach Myers
Durango, CO

Wagner Custom Skis
Pete Wagner
Telluride, CO

Wedel Pottery
Tim Wedel
Palisade, CO

Western Rise
Kelly Watters
Telluride, CO

Western Slope SUP
Daniel Roman
Hotchkiss, CO

WildEdge Brewing
Collective
Tucker Robinson
Cortez, CO

Women's Empowerment
Workshop
Susie Kincade
Eagle, CO