

June 27, 2014

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper
Governor
State of Colorado
State Capitol Building, Room 136
200 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO. 80203

Re: Oil and Gas Local Control Bill – June 23 Version

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We are writing to you to express our opposition to the introduction of legislation granting additional authority to local governments to regulate oil and gas operations.

Our companies conduct oil and gas operations throughout the State of Colorado and continue to invest billions of dollars every year, and employ thousands of Coloradoans in all areas of the state.

We value the relationships with local jurisdictions and have extensive experience addressing issues of local concern. Colorado law already clearly spells out the role local governments have in regulating oil and gas operations in Colorado. In fact, many jurisdictions participate in the Local Government Designee (LGD) process with the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission and have executed operator agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with operators that allow local governments to address unique issues important to their individual communities.

Fundamentally, there is no reason to support legislation that would push towards more regulations on the oil and gas industry. As you have stated numerous times, Colorado has the strongest oil and gas regulations in the nation. No other industry has undergone continuous major rulemakings since 2006. Since that time, Colorado has adopted stringent rules on setbacks, noise abatement, wildlife protection, reporting mechanisms, drilling plans, financial assurances, groundwater monitoring, bradenhead pressure monitoring, surface owner protections, pit linings, venting and flaring, spills and releases, reclamation, hydraulic fracturing chemical disclosure, wildlife mapping, air quality and monitoring and too many more to list. These public rulemakings have included numerous stakeholders from local governments to agriculture interests.

We believe that future changes to Colorado's oil and gas regulatory framework should be considered through an open and transparent process that involves all stakeholders. As you know, there are numerous ballot initiatives set for November that could harm Colorado's economy. We look forward to working with you to defeat all of these ballot measures including those that ban energy development in Colorado.

Sincerely

Bill Barrett Corporation
BP America
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.
ConocoPhillips
Diamond Operating Inc.
Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc.
Gunnison Energy
Marathon Oil Corporation
Mesa Energy Partners LLC
Mercator Energy
Newfield Exploration
Nighthawk Production LLC
Petron Development Company
QEP Resources, Inc.
Shell Oil Company
Ursa Operating Company LLC
Whiting Petroleum Corporation
Williams
XTO Energy Inc.