

Public Comments

The following is a record of the comments received form Oil and Gas web page starting on July 4, 2019. The comments listed below have been taken directly from the emails received and have not been modified with the exceptions of typographical errors. The Community Development Department does not endorse any of the comments provided, we are merely providing transparency with the information we have received.

July 4, 2019	I am concerned about the ruin of our air quality from Weld County. We continue to get F's from EPA — proven largely to be from Weld County's methane. Can our county make an agreement with Weld regarding air quality?
July 9, 2019	How will the new Oil and Gas Commission use SCIENCE to establish protections for the health, well-being and safety of all Larimer County residents, human and animal alike? A majority of the appointed members of this new task force have ties to the oil and gas industry, so how can we trust them to put our concerns first?
July 9, 2019	I just watched the first meeting of the Larimer Co. O & G Task Force and was SHOCKED at all the oilers on this board. Matt Lafferty seems to think it's great and that is very concerning. The Larimer County Commissioners are opening themselves up for litigation if they are not more careful. Your job is to protect us, not align yourselves with dirty oil & gas. They are directly responsible for our poor air quality and 'F' rating from the American Lung Association. Time to follow the law and heed what SB-181 is telling your to do - Protect the people and environment.
July 9, 2019	It is quite shameful to think that the public officials who say that they represent the people's health, safety and security needs as our County Commissioners could possibly have thought that they'd get this poor excuse for an Oil and Gas Task Force to be created without public outcry. This is beyond shameful and needs to be questioned to see if it represents an illegal act by the commissioners as you have NOT followed the stated agenda of putting the task force together. You had 4 medical Physicians who applied for this task force who were not even interviewed. You selected a much greater than 50% group of members for the task force who are either closely aligned with Oil & Gas Industry or who have vested interests in pleasing the Oil & Gas Industry, or who are doing research with Oil & Gas Industry funds. What's the meaning of this!??? You should be ashamed of your vote for the greater than 50% membership with vested interests for O&G, and you will all be called out for not having acted in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of your constituents. You have not interviewed people in great numbers with health and medical backgrounds who are NOT aligned with the Oil & Gas Industry. Shame on you.
July 9, 2019	Is this the proper form for leaving public comment for the O&G Task Force? Also, what opportunities will there be for the public to address members of the Task Force directly?
July 10, 2019	I am totally upset that more than half of the appointees to the oil and gas task force are either employed by that industry or have vested interests with the industry. That is equivalent to letting the foxes in the hen house. Contrary to some public officials' belief climate disruption is not a fad it is a fact. Larimer county's air quality got an F from the American Lung Association this year. That is not just from cars it is also from that fact that the harmful gases produced by fracking in Weld county

	comes back over Larimer county at night by prevailing winds. We need a task force that will look out for our health and not the bottom line of oil and gas. We need to move away from fossil fuels not encourage more use. Please rethink your appointments. Thank you
July 10, 2019	<p>I will be paying very close attention this issue for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The oil lobby seems to be the dominant force on the task force. How did that happen? It is not a good way to insure the trust of your community. 2) There are no "extremists" from the environmental community on the task force, yet there are at least three "extremists" from the oil lobby on the task force. 3) The public should be given more than one opportunity to speak their minds directly to the task force. 4) The oil lobby is not working in the interest of our country, or our communities, because it is exporting record amounts of our oil, gasoline, and diesel, while charging us more at the pump. More exports=higher demand=higher prices for Americans. 5) There are hundreds of orphaned and abandoned wells in Colorado, left behind by bankrupted drillers. Who pays to clean up their mess? Taxpayers do. 6) There are 23,000 wells in Weld County. Each well uses millions of gallons of fresh water during operation. That water is then polluted with chemicals and shot back underground into disposal wells. Where are they getting this water from, and where will they be getting water from Larimer County? Where will disposal wells be located, and how many? How much of our open space and parks is protected? We don't this filthy industry in Larimer County. I hope these questions will be addressed by the task force. 7) According to Colorado State Employment Statistics, the oil lobby employs less than 1% of the workforce statewide. Why do you think they have the loudest voice in the room? 8) That loud voice crows about the "huge" tax revenues the state collects from the oil industry. Why, then, don't we have the best roads and schools in the country? Where's the money?
July 11, 2019	Seems to me the Oil & Gas Commission for Larimer county is heavily weighted toward the industry and developers. This is contrary to the goal of Senate Bill 181. What was the criteria used to select the panel members and who made the final selections?
July 12, 2019	<p>I am very concerned about the makeup of the Oil and Gas Task force. The task force consists of more than half of the members being from the oil and gas industry. This suggests a certain disregard for the recently passed SB181, which makes protecting public health and safety and the environment a priority when considering oil and gas projects.</p> <p>I want to make sure my home, water and family are safe from oil and gas projects in Larimer county. We need to be moving away from oil and gas anyway due to the climate crisis. Please reconfigure the oil and gas task force to consider the safety of citizens of Larimer County in the spirit of SB 181.</p>
July 22, 2019	Hello. I was wondering how the health impacts of oil and gas development will be assessed? It doesn't appear that any physicians or public health experts are on the task force. Since assessing the impact of development on public health is a key component of the 181 legislation this is very concerning. Thanks for your reply!
July 25, 2019	I have often heard reassurances from members of the oil and gas industry that the annoyance factors (noise, truck traffic, smells, lights) associated with drilling are

	<p>short-term and easily mitigated. However, these are not the primary concerns for Coloradans living along the Front Range. The impact on air quality, especially in regard to VOC emissions and ozone, are of far greater import. These emissions have long term negative impacts for a large percentage of the population of Larimer County. In just the last year we have had days when our air quality was worse than that of Mexico City or Beijing. And studies of the ethane markers of Front Range ozone show that at least half of those ozone producing emissions are directly attributable to oil and gas operations.</p> <p>I would like to refer the members of the Oil & Gas Task Force to the following article written by a researcher from Colorado State University. The information is timely, current and relevant to the effort of crafting a draft proposal of Larimer County regulations.</p> <p>Lesley Fleischman Gasping for Breath: An analysis of the health effects from ozone pollution from the oil and gas industry. Clean Air Task Force http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/Gasping_for_Breath.pdf</p>
<p>July 26, 2019</p>	<p>I noticed that the question of set-backs has been raised in Task Force discussion. I would like to offer the paper cited below as a resource for making recommendations on this very important matter. The article points out that in general setbacks have been determined by a process of negotiation between the industry and government entities with very little basis in data. The purpose of this review is to provide data from a number of different perspectives: What are adequate setbacks in the case of a blow-out event? What is a safe distance in regard to H2S emissions and VOC's? How should emissions be monitored? And what criteria should be considered for establishing emergency protocols and training first responders?</p> <p>Environmental Health Perspectives, Vol. 124, No. 9 Review Adequacy of Current State Setbacks for Directional High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing in the Marcellus, Barnett, and Niobrara Shale Plays Marsha Haley , Michael McCawley , Anne C. Epstein , Bob Arrington , and Elizabeth Ferrell Bjerke Published:1 September 2016 https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1510547</p>
<p>August 5, 2019</p>	<p>Regarding oil and gas development along the Front Range: As the VP of a growing Northern Colorado Manufacturing company my largest struggle is finding good employees to work in fabrication and assembly. Frankly I am tired of hearing about how we need oil and gas jobs, this statement may have been true 20 years ago, but today oil and gas hardly employees as many people as the Colorado tech and tourism industries. Today, solid, long term employers like my company are competing with short term employers like oil and gas. I have watched the cycle of some of my best workers leave for the oil fields, get laid off, and come back again too many times. Our Colorado employees are a commodity far more valuable than oil. We need them working in sustainable industries that will be here in a decade. They need stable employment, that's not oil and gas.</p>
<p>August 5, 2019</p>	<p>We need oil and gas jobs for people and the taxes they pay for schools and other things they participate in.</p>
<p>August 5, 2019</p>	<p>Four generations of our family have been in this area, in particular around Loveland and Fort Collins. Family members who have farmed and invested blood,</p>

	<p>sweat, and tears into this land. Family members who have lakes and ponds around here named after them. Family members who were involved with the community as fire chief, accountants, cattle farmers, realtors, and many other occupations. One thing none of our family has done is being employed by oil and gas, this stated so that the extremists cannot default to their usual comment that anyone supporting the industry must be employed by them. O&G is a proven safe industry of hard working families and community members, we cannot afford to kill our economy due to extremist views and emotional unsupported responses from them. Also, and very important, land owners and mineral owners have rights to access their resources. The city and other government are responsible for taking this into account during expansions plans just as they account for water, open space, proximity concerns, and other associated details. This community came together and voted clearly to NOT further restrict this industry, then politicians forced 181 down our throats anyway. Restrict access to this industry and they will move out, taking their safe operations with them and taking our great economy with them. We cannot survive without fossil fuels. Not even the extremists renewable energies and electric cars can exist currently without fossil fuels. Eventually we all hope to be 100% renewable, but we are not there and we better embrace the O&G industry now to get us there.</p>
<p>August 5, 2019</p>	<p>I think that people need to realize the truth and stop following blindly while attacking an entire industry. Someone from earthworks just filmed an extraction location with a flir camera while it's in frack stage, and said that all the stuff you see is VOC's being poured into the air. When it was simply exhaust which I might add has all the local and federal required emission systems. I think people have no idea about the truth on what happens in the industry, and judge hard working people in the sense that they feel we all want these earth to die and people's public health to be at risk. When we live in the same communities and drink the same water. People. Need to get an actual clue. Because what they read is 99% so far off it's ludicrous.</p>
<p>August 5, 2019</p>	<p>I am very much in support of local drilling and as part of 4 generations of Loveland families, it's important to note Colorado is a national leader in energy regulations already. The short time the initial operations are actually on site compared to the benefits are a no brainer. If the land owners have no issues with the equipment on their owned land, it's hard to understand why all the mineral owners (including the city) would not be thanking them for the site use and the benefits they will get for basically doing nothing but finally finding a company who is willing to pay them for mineral rights. These homeowners and the city need to realize if we shut down this opportunity the industry will move on and now our mineral rights are WORTHLESS. Colorado has the most comprehensive and stringent environmental rules in the nation, including rules that require disclosure and ensure the safety and transparency of fracking which has operated safely for over 60 years in Colorado. 43 thousand jobs currently are counting on moving forward, and many more in the future. Oil and gas sites will employ local Loveland families who pay taxes and contribute to this community daily. Everything from our home and rental home values, to the grocery stores, to the car lots, to the daycare centers, and on and on.....have benefited from the local jobs this industry provides. As a state we voted NO on 112 !!! We must respect that vote</p>
<p>August 5, 2019</p>	<p>A temporary Economy booster is NOT more important than Colorado's permanent ECOLOGY. These oil and gas companies and their employees do not care about Colorado. They come here, extract our resources for massive profit and leave the ecology in ruin. Their lack of understanding of the environmental impact of their</p>

	<p>industry is negligent and dangerous.</p> <p>On top of that they pay their employees to attend our town hall meetings and drown out the voices of the Colorado citizens that will be here long after their oil wells dry up and they leave.</p> <p>Proposition 112 was a perfect example of these companies. They spent 31,350,000 lobbying to regulate the distance they can drill for Oil from schools and rivers, meanwhile environmentalists could only raise 1,000,000. They outgunned Colorado by 30 millions dollars, and only won the vote by 5%. Now they are setting up a rig literally on Mead High Schools campus between the school and the baseball fields. Deplorable.</p>
<p>August 5, 2019</p>	<p>Oil and gas had allowed me and my wife opportunities we otherwise would never have had. Creating a good savings Decent vacations Her to work in education that does not pay well Decent cars and not living pay check to paycheck Paying home off faster Stimulating the economy with extra discretionary income</p>
<p>August 6, 2019</p>	<p>I have lived next to a fracking operation for 4 years. My 1 important insight has been the length of the operation. It is one thing to have your life disrupted this way for a couple of months, but the length of these operations has been a nightmare. Often operating 24 hrs. a day no one should be subjected to this for such a long time. 4 years! Please advocate for shorter term of drilling whenever within any residences including rural residents</p>
<p>August 6, 2019</p>	<p>As a 4th generation Colorado native family of Loveland, we support the safe and efficient use of our natural resources. This industries operators and associated businesses have provided income, jobs, increased housing values, and safe resources to our area for longer than many have lived here. The operators big and small have to follow the required regulations and liabilities. Loveland and the front range was built on small business growth and our community providing opportunities to organizations. Thanks to this, we have had family members who were cattle farmers on this very land who went on to retire as long-time government public servants for the Loveland community. The same people who by the way worked with and lived next to previous wells operated under far older technology. This industry has come a long way and deserves credit and the ability to move forward, our community cannot afford to restrict these hard working and safety minded workers and families. We have majority VOTED TWICE NOW NOT TO RESTRICT this industry, regulations and safety standards are being followed, governing entities have an obligation to the voters to allow these permits to move forward. Our schools, roads, parks, housing values, families, jobs, and much more need the income to continue to have a thriving community.</p>
<p>August 6, 2019</p>	<p>According to a study done by the National Academy of Sciences, "fracking is safe, end of discussion. "In an examination of 130 different wells that was funded by the National Science Foundation and Duke University, researchers found "that when properly conducted, no groundwater or aquifer pollution resulted from the practice of fracking itself." "Proving beyond doubt that fracking itself does not cause gas to seep into the water. "Also according the US Geological Survey, "Fracking is NOT causing most of the induced earthquakes. "These wells will be safe, there is</p>

	scientific proof, so let's keep our citizens employed and expand the oil and gas production safely. How can we possibly allow our politicians and extremist out of state groups to manipulate our communities VOTE and change laws against our vote, such as 181!
August 6, 2019	Have grown up in the oil field with my dad. We move every where there was a big oil boom or production facility's being built all over the world! Still work in the oil and gas industry today myself. Love it great money and Benefits to raise a family with. Never seen or heard of anyone getting sick from working or being to close to oil and gas!
August 6, 2019	We need a moratorium on new drilling permits until regulations can be finalized. The city of Berthoud and nearby Adams County both have temporary moratoriums in place for this reason. The task force also seems over represented by O and G interests- let's make sure our health and air quality is valued more than money.
August 7, 2019	Ban fracking. Have strict air, water, safety, and environmental regulations to protect our right to breathe and drink clean water
August 7, 2019	I would be willing to help so that development continues. Oil and Gas plays a large role in the Colorado economy. It is safe and reliable so please moved forward.
August 7, 2019	If the concern for the county and state is truly health and safety, please look at the stats. Our state has grown over a 1,000,000 people in the last 5-yrs, the rig count has dropped almost in half, and our air is about 70% cleaner than it was over 10-years ago. The oil and Gas industry does so much good for their local communities and not to mention the countless jobs and tax revenue it brings in for the state. Please don't ignore the facts and allow these permits and drilling to continue. Thank you for your time!
August 7, 2019	Working in the Oil and Gas business has allowed me to use my talents to build a small business that employees 9 people with families. Each of these people earns an average wage of \$85k per year. I can also completely provide them and their families with full health insurance. Oil and gas tax dollars have improved the quality of life in our community by allowing us to build better parks, roads, and schools. So many other businesses that are not directly employed by the industry have also benefited. Please don't take away our prosperity.
August 7, 2019	I hope the good that comes from a boost to the economy from oil and gas is not overlooked. Often in public settings, it seems that those that shout the loudest are those that get heard. Employment to Larimer County should be considered.
August 8, 2019	1. What kind of steps are in place or are being considered to assure the taxpayer that will not be responsible for road repairs that stem from oil & gas development? 2. Also wondering about dust mitigation efforts. 3. Is Larimer County going to improve regulations to make sure that erosion control methods are utilized and maintained by companies/ Contractors?
August 8, 2019	IT IS TIME TO STOP HIDING FROM REALITY AND SCIENCE! IT IS TIME TO PUT THE AMERICAN INGENUITY AND FORTITUDE TO WORK ON ENDING DRILLING AND FRACKING! LET'S WORK TOGETHER ON RENEWABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY ENERGY! IT IS THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND GOALS TO GIVE OUR ENVIRONMENT A CHANCE TO RECOVER. THE PATH ALONG THESE GOALS WILL CREATE GOOD JOBS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. IT IS TIME TO UNDERSTAND THAT SCIENCE IS NOT SOME KIND OF FAKE NEWS THAT WE CAN IGNORE...NOT SOME KIND OF POLITICAL IDEA.

August 8, 2019	Our family strongly supports more regulations and a ban on fracking. Our environment and health matters! No new rigs period. Colorado needs to lead the way on renewables not destroy our home.
August 8, 2019	<p>Please create stringent protections for the citizens of Larimer County from the emissions generated by oil and gas drilling and fracking. Oil and gas emissions contribute to the Ozone alerts that Larimer County residents have been experiencing in just the last couple of weeks, let alone the that few years. To illustrate the problem in a relevant manner for you, here is CDPHE's alert for yesterday:</p> <p>Detailed Air Quality Summary for 08/06/19</p> <p>All data are collected real-time and have not been corrected nor validated.</p> <p>Daily Highs: Area Site Air Quality Max AQI Pollutant Conc. Period Time * (MST) Ft. Collins - Greeley [expand +] FTCW Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 104 Ozone 72 PPB 8-hour 7 PM</p> <p>Yesterday was not been the only day with ozone alerts in the last two weeks alone. Please write your regulations in a way that will protect people as the focus and not the profits of the Oil and Gas industry.</p>
August 10, 2019	I think current oil and gas regulations are serving us well right now. Further restrictions will damage the oil and gas industry, and I DON'T want that to happen.
August 13, 2019	<p>The Larimer County Commissioners #1 responsibility if to protect and enhance the public health and safety of county residents. Facilitating the expansion of an already highly subsidized, polluting industry borders on dereliction of duty. Do the Commissioners believe industry profits are more important than the health, safety and quality of life of Larimer County citizens? The Task Force should take a good look at the map to see how fracking is supplanting tourism as an economic driver. Tourism serves the entire state and benefits residents. Do the right thing for the citizens of Larimer County, the majority of whom see zero benefits—only loss of quality of life—from the explosion of fracking industry. Larimer is not Weld County. Respect science. See the following article/map on how climate change is affecting Larimer County, no small thanks to the frackers.. Tourists once came to Larimer County to enjoy cooler summer vacations in the natural environment. Those cool, summer vacations are history, as Larimer County experienced a 2.0 rise in temps and has been out of compliance for air quality for decades. https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/national/climate-environmen...</p>
August 14, 2019	I fully support the production of Oil and Gas not only in our State but in our county. We have some of the strictest rules and regulations already in place. We need to move forward with drilling to help support our communities.
August 15, 2019	I worked in Weld County for six years, and my job required me to travel throughout the whole county and East as well. I saw well pads next to schools, playgrounds, and on farmland. I read up on fracking and learned about the millions of gallons of clean water used to frack one well, the toxic gases and chemicals used and released, the degradation of our air along the Front Range (American Lung Association giving us an "F" rating on air quality). My boss at the time, who lives in

	<p>Ault, said she saw the oil and gas developers burning off gas they couldn't immediately sell, and I know there have been numerous toxic spills, accidents, and several deaths associated with fracking. I sometimes feel irritation in my sinuses and throat due to the ozone. I am horrified and scared by the degradation, and I believe the studies about increased rates of cancer and issues with fetal heart defects caused by fracking. I feel grief due to the poorly managed and insufficiently regulated oil and gas development and by the fact that the state has overturned all the citizen initiatives to protect neighborhoods, schools, sources of water, and air quality (let alone the beauty of our state). The development has caused me great concern and worry, and I know it is compromising our environment and health. We need to slow this process down dramatically, limit it, and regulate it so the least amount of pollution possible is released.</p>
	<p>We need to put the needs of our children, water, air, wildlife & natural lands before the greed or "need" for fossil fuels.</p>
<p>August 16, 2019</p>	<p>#1: Planning/Zoning: Would it be realistic to incorporate a "framework" of Mr. Jon Turner for initial Planning Approval, not necessarily re-zoning the surface site, but approval being made via a Condition Use Permit? Would this allow for incorporation of existing state and county rules/regulations but also allow for site specific details and public comment incorporation, and also enhance/strengthen County Enforcement and issuing penalties for violations?</p> <p>#2: Air Permit: When is the air permit issued? The COGCC data base does not include the air permit (or may not be readily/easily navigable to find) What levels are required for dust, NOx, SOx, Benzene, hydrocarbons, etc during drilling and production? How are these monitored?</p> <p>#3: Community Relations (Producer): The public voice to the the producer is the Complaint system, which as was presented by the State representative, the system is a "nuisance"; and the State presenter no longer wants this responsibility. From recent experience, the term "nuisance" may have less use if there are much improved community relations requirements and activities. Could this include: accurate information from the producer including site layouts, well layouts, timely responses, action and response correspondence, etc. Could the Use Permit include the condition on volume/quantity of complaints?</p> <p>#4: Frac'ing & Geologic Consequences, Pollution Emissions (noise, light, dust, hydrocarbon): Prior to permit approval, would it be possible to have studies/reports on these conditions, with Public comment? It appears that there is very little research to further understand long term Environmental effects from the Frac'ing fluid chemical composition, and resulting geological impacts after injection of high pressure fluids, extraction of high pressure gas/fluids.</p> <p>#5: Permit Denial: As presented by the State, there is no permit denial process. Would it be possible that if conditions aren't met within a specified time, the permit would be denied?</p> <p>#6: Environmental protection of Livestock (and wildlife): Construction/drilling, and long term production has impacted the livestock (horses) and caused wildlife dissipation (movement outside of their habit). Could buffer zones be incorporated to protect the livestock and wild life?</p> <p>#7: Flaring: Could requirements be included so that all flaring events (both temporary/construction and long term operation) are conducted using an enclosed flare, to minimize bright lights and noise? Additionally, can regulations include control and enforcement on the number of flaring events?</p> <p>#8: Emissions: With MACT, it appears as if Exploration and Production emission</p>

	<p>reduction technologies are available, not written into permits (including vapor recover at production [tanks] and transport trucks). Similar to USDOT and vehicle emissions, can more conservative emissions be incorporated?</p> <p>#9: Buffer Zones: Could this be revisited to include a buffer zone to property line versus the current regulations to "habitable residence"?</p>
	<p>https://www.ecowatch.com/fracking-boom-methane-climate-change-2639835805...</p>
August 18, 2019	<p>How much does it cost to do a blood test for benzenes and volatile compounds from O&G operations? I hope the county considers asking operators to fund blood tests for citizens who are concerned they are being adversely affected.</p>
August 21, 2019	<p>Colorado law now prioritizes protecting public health safety, and the environment in matters of oil and gas development.</p> <p>Since racking causes many different types of problems in the environment and in the aquifer that the public depends on for drinking water, I am asking Larimer County government to prioritize protecting public health and safety, and the integrity of public lands in accordance with Colorado Senate Bill 181, by suspending all pending applications for extraction.</p>
	<p>At BOCC meeting yesterday, Commissioner Donnelly seemed offended that the Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & the Environment had not given due credit to the many levels of government that have long worked hard to improve our air quality.</p> <p>I feel it very important to point out that no one is doubting these efforts, but instead trying to guard them. . .</p> <p>Commissioner Donnelly seems unaware that for what little movement all these efforts may have won (we're still flunking national ozone standards for public health), increasing oil and gas drilling in Northern Colorado without insisting that the industry take responsibility to clear the air will absolutely ruin any small advancement on behalf of any other contributing factor.</p> <p>The overwhelming amount of poison in the air is from industry — not cars, not lawnmowers, not lack of rules for how individuals navigate in their communities. And industry is in a far better position to do something about it. The tax base it provides is proven not dependable, and not worth ruining public health.</p> <p>Do we want to fix our pollution problem? Or pretend that recycling and other consumer habits stand even a chance at wiggling the ozone meter?</p>
	<p>I live in rural Larimer County. There is a fracking rig within 2000 feet of my house and a mere 1000 feet of some of my neighbors. I occasionally note a strong "chemical smell" when I am outside and I have even driven into town, parked my car and left the windows open for it to air out. (I park in a garage at home and the odors permeate). The chemicals in the air are nasty. We also have some noise pollution since they run generators all night. (the vertical drilling was completed over a year ago). I wish our country could survive without oil and natural gas but currently I know this is not feasible. Until we have 100% renewable energy, please keep Larimer County residents healthy by enforcing setbacks of at least 2500 feet. Thank you.</p>

<p>August 23, 2019</p>	<p>According to Colorado State employment statistics, less than 1% of Colorado jobs are created by the oil and gas industry. In 2014, at the peak of the fracking boom, there were over 100,000 wells in CO. Americans were paying \$4/gallon at the pump for fuel, while we were swimming in oil. Where was all our oil going? It was being exported as gasoline and diesel in order to keep the price high. At the time, there was a ban on US crude oil exports, not on gasoline and diesel exports. In 2015, when the US oil industry ran out of storage space for the oversupply of oil, the market crashed. Oil prices dropped from \$100/barrel to about \$30/barrel, gasoline and diesel prices dropped from \$4/gallon to about \$1.59/gallon. Good news for American consumers, bad news for the US drillers. Half of them went bankrupt, and abandoned their wells. That is why Colorado now has over 50,000 orphaned, and abandoned, wells. (These stats come from COGCC). The US oil lobby got right to work, and coerced the Republican dominated US Congress to repeal the ban on US crude oil exports. That being done, US oil exports have soared to record levels, while prices at the pump have risen from less than \$2gallon to about \$2.50/gallon. More exports=more drilling=higher prices for Americans.</p> <p>The point of all of the above is that when all those drillers went bankrupt, drilling activity in CO dropped by at least 50%. What happened to Colorado's economy? Nothing. It didn't blink. The industry's importance to Colorado's economy is greatly exaggerated. We would do fine without them. They have the loudest voice in the room, and leave the biggest environmental footprint of any current industry in CO. With all the spills and explosions, I don't believe any fines were ever imposed on the industry.</p> <p>I would also add the following question. With all the imagined tax revenue that comes from oil and gas, why don't we have the best roads and schools in the country?</p> <p>This industry needs (at least)to be heavily regulated, taxed, and fined when disasters occur. They should also be forced to pay for closing abandoned wells. Taxpayers should not have to pay for any of the mess left behind.</p>
<p>August 27, 2019</p>	<p>Ft. Collins passed a moratorium on oil and gas within city limits some years ago, but the gov. sued to stop it. Now we need to do it. !!!</p>
<p>August 28, 2019</p>	<p>With the passage of major reform legislation earlier this year, Colorado law now prioritizes protecting public health, safety and the environment regarding oil and gas development. At this time the county should block new oil and gas development as the county develops new regulations that meet the goals of the new law. Also, the county needs a balanced task force as currently the task force has a majority of member with direct ties or invested interest in the oil and gas industry.</p>
<p>August 29, 2019</p>	<p>I just spent a couple of days backpacking in in the Comanche Peak Wilderness above 11000 ft. It was absolutely gorgeous but how depressing to see the brown smog when looking to the east. We have to get our air pollution under control and one way is to suspend oil and gas operations in Larimer County.</p>
<p>August 30, 2019</p>	<p>Please no new wells, no fracking, our water and health matters!</p> <p>1. What's most important to regulate at the local level when it comes to oil and gas facilities? My response: Land use Setbacks Environment</p>

Air quality

Operational protocols

Other: Financial protection for residents and government: O&G operators/companies should be required to provide current information about their financial condition, proof of financial strength and adequate liability insurance, and disclose records of past financial, operational, or employee-related citations or violations; and required to post financial security bonds of \$100,000 per well to cover future clean-up and capping costs in the event of default, bankruptcy, or other failure to properly clean up, cap, and remediate wells/sites.

2. What other input regarding regulations would you like to share with county staff and the Oil and Gas Regulations Task Force?

My response:

State policy and law (SB-181) now clearly prioritizes protection of public health, safety, and environment in matters of oil & gas development. The intent of SB-181 is also to ensure that communities will no longer be endangered and harmed by O&G development, and that O&G emissions must be significantly reduced to improve air quality.

Protection of public health, safety, and environment needs to be based on facts and evidence, and not a political compromise intended to foster oil & gas development as in the past. Substantial scientific evidence, including research conducted in Colorado, indicates that 1,000' setbacks are insufficient to provide protection of public health and safety. Many studies have found that oil and gas development causes negative health impacts at 1000' distances and beyond. Health dangers associated with proximity to oil and gas development include cancer, respiratory illnesses, congenital heart defects, high-risk pregnancies, birth defects, other pre- and post-natal health issues, headaches, nose bleeds, throat irritation, eye burning, shortness of breath, and skin rashes. See Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking

<https://www.psr.org/blog/resource/compendium-of-scientific-medical-and-m...>

Larimer County residents want to breathe clean air; and pollution and bad air quality hurt Larimer County residents and businesses. Oil & gas development including drilling and fracking contribute significantly to toxic air pollution and smog (ground-level ozone) at levels known to cause health damage and environmental impacts. California determined that fracking can have “significant and unavoidable” impacts on air quality, including driving pollutants above levels that violate air quality standards. Scientific evidence (FRAPPE-NCAR and Boulder Reservoir air quality research) indicates this is also true in Colorado. O&G emissions send toxic plumes across local neighborhoods and schools, and damage air quality throughout the Front Range, causing dangerous ozone and giving Larimer County some of the worst AQ in the country. To protect public health and environment including the climate, Larimer County needs to adopt regulations that will rapidly reduce and prevent emissions from oil & gas development; needs to accurately monitor (24/7) and report (in real time) on emissions from oil & gas operations and air quality; and needs to undertake effective and timely enforcement actions for all violations. Monitoring should be paid for by O&G operators. The County must immediately stop allowing unmonitored and unlimited emissions from new wells for

90 days.

The County should also establish credible monitoring of water quality and noise near O&G facilities, require immediate reporting of all spills, and undertake effective and timely enforcement actions for all violations.

The County needs to recognize the urgency and issues related to climate change, and the role of O&G gas development in climate change, which has major economic costs as well as impacts on public health, safety, agriculture, water resources, and environment in Larimer County and elsewhere. Natural gas is a major driver of the climate crisis; methane (fracked gas) leaks into the atmosphere, greatly accelerating climate change; it has contributed one-third of increased methane emissions globally over the past decade. The County needs to adopt stringent regulations that minimize and prevent methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from O&G gas development; establish credible monitoring of potential methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from O&G gas operations; and undertake effective and timely enforcement actions for all violations.

"All together, findings to date from scientific, medical, and journalistic investigations combine to demonstrate that fracking poses significant threats to air, water, health, public safety, climate stability, seismic stability, community cohesion, and long-term economic vitality. Emerging data from a rapidly expanding body of evidence continue to reveal a plethora of recurring problems and harms that cannot be sufficiently averted through regulatory frameworks. There is no evidence that fracking can operate without threatening public health directly or without imperiling climate stability upon which public health depends."

from the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking

<https://www.psr.org/blog/resource/compendium-of-scientific-medical-and-m...>

3. What suggestions do you have for future community engagement on this topic?
My response:

The County should provide reasonable and timely information to the public, and establish effective mechanisms for public participation.

The County made highly consequential decisions about appointments to the Oil & Gas Regulations Task Force with bare minimum legal (24-hour) public notice, which was not reasonable, contrary to the County's promise of transparency and public participation in prior public statements, and a violation of public trust.

The appointment of a Task Force in which two-thirds of the members work for the O&G industry, are service providers to the industry, or land developers with interests in profiting from O&G development, with no opportunity for public participation or comment in the appointment process, was a violation of public trust. The violation carries forward now in the composition of the Task Force.

It appears that Task Force members have substantial conflicts of interest that compromise the Task Force, but the County has provided no public disclosure of conflicts of interest by Task Force members. Where is public participation in the matter of conflicts of interest by Task Force members?

	<p>The claim by Larimer County that Task Force members who are O&G industry employees and service also qualify as environmentalists who can represent environmental interests is incredulous. As noted above, Larimer County appointed Task Force members without real transparency or public participation, which suggest that Larimer County did not want to risk public comment on its incredulous appointments.</p> <p>At this point, the shortcomings in transparency and public participation by Larimer County in appointing the Task Force, and allowing no public participation to date in the Task Force proceedings, have made a farce of the Task Force and its eventual recommendations. A belated effort at "public engagement" can do little to remedy the mistakes already made by the County, or to rectify the violation of public trust.</p> <p>The County should start over with a Task Force that is appointed with transparency and public participation, and which proceeds with transparency and public participation. For the County to try to add "public engagement" at this point in the badly flawed current Task Force process is tantamount to putting lipstick on a pig</p>
	<p>Until the new COGCC has settled on new guidelines (inn a few weeks or months), please do not approve any Oil & Gas permits (for either new or re-activating dormant wells) anywhere near where people live, work, or play or any water used for crops, wildlife, or drinking water for human habitation. There are more than 60,000 active wells in Colorado now (per Fracktracker.org). That's enough to keep them in business for now, don't you think? Please do not approve any permits until safety and health are a bigger part of the decision-making</p>
	<p>Why is the questionnaire on Survey Monkey no longer available? It was announced to be live until 8/31. I write on 8/30 well before midnight and it is "not available." Why is everything so rushed??</p>
	<p>The Oil & Gas (O&G) or O&G Task Force Survey was supposed to stay open for public comments until the end of the month but was closed earlier today. Why?</p> <p>Please open it back up for at least (2) more days like it was supposed to be unless public comment isn't really appreciated. If the county truly wants to be fair and transparent it will do this plus sufficiently advertise the survey's reopening so the public has time to respond to the reopening of the survey and make additional comments.</p>
<p>August 31, 2019</p>	<p>I have had a chance to submit my opinion through your website, but I am disappointed something that was supposed to remain open through to the end of the month has been shut down early. Data can and should continue to be gathered as it was publicized until the end of the month. . . weekend be damned!</p>
	<p>The Oil & Gas (O&G) or O&G Task Force Survey was supposed to stay open for public comments until the end of the month, today, but it was closed yesterday. Why? Many working people only have time on weekends for this sort of thing, and if the end of the month falls on a county day off, the time should be extended, not shortened from the announced "end of month."</p>

	<p>Please open the public comment period back up for at least (2) more days like it was supposed to be, unless public comment isn't really welcome and appreciated. If the county truly wants to be fair and transparent it will do this, plus sufficiently advertise the survey's reopening so the public has time to respond to the reopening of the survey and make additional comments. Indeed, the time should be extended a reasonable amount to account for this, most likely by 1 week</p>
	<p>I planned to comment on The Oil & Gas (O&G) Task Force Survey today however the survey was closed. I believe this survey was supposed to stay open for public comments until the end of the month but was closed earlier today. Why?</p> <p>I urge the Task Force to open the survey back up for at least (2) more days, like it was supposed to be. Public comment is important for our democracy and if the county truly wants to be fair and transparent it will do this plus sufficiently advertise the survey's reopening so the public has time to respond to the reopening of the survey and make additional comments. Thank you for considering my point of view.</p>
	<p>It has come to my attention that this oil and gas task force is a sham. Stacked with oil and gas insiders. If so, that disgusts me! How dare you go about governing our county this way, that is the worst of Washington, DC, and the worst of government. Colorado is better than that! And it better stay that way. I see all the signs of corruption in my two Republican County Commissioners. Larimer County is not Weld County, we have far better options to continue having a great economy, and more importantly a great place to live. And we are doing very well. We're smart enough and moral enough to have pulled that off without destroying our natural environment. And we are smart enough to know how important our natural environment is to every aspect of a high quality of life. If you two proven wrong Republican Commissioners, proven wrong by all the success Ft. Collins has had with very progressive policies, again successful policies, fail to learn from what works and why, you are in the wrong jobs. Are you corrupted? Are you part of the worst of human nature and the worst of capitalism? Are you oblivious to the fact that we know how to do much better? Are you horrible people whose greed outweighs their moral fiber? Will you harm everyone else for a few people's selfish gain? If you cannot prove otherwise with your actions, then the answer is yes, you are corrupted, and therefore a disgrace to all things intelligent, honorable, moral and advanced. If you are honorable, or Christian in any way, you will not continue with a stacked task force, and you will not ignore the will of we the people. Almost every comment I've seen has been against what you are doing. If you ignore all that, especially without coming clean and facing us like honorable men, then we know you are not. We will know that the worst of the proven dead wrong across the board, and now proven immoral GOP has poisoned Larimer County. No real Coloradoan accepts that. Neither does God, if that matters to you. Don't gain the world and lose your souls. Don't put your faith in material things while destroying our beautiful part of the world, that would make you real scumbags</p>
	<p>Please protect our beautiful state and environment. Our air and water are a precious resource that we can not abuse! Lives matter, health matter much more than temporary jobs. WATER is all we have, we can not drink oil. Be responsible and protect our us from abuse and DO the RIGHT thing.</p>
<p>September 4, 2019</p>	<p>Please ensure that oil & gas regulations in our county fulfill the spirit & letter of the recent law, Senate bill 19-181, that says Colorado must protect the health, safety</p>

