



***“Voice of the Western Slope Since 1953”***

*A coalition of individuals, businesses and local governments*

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**RULES CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF COLORADO’S OIL & GAS RESERVES**

**WHEREAS** Colorado has large reserves of oil and natural gas and the development of these reserves is not only an important economic opportunity for our state, but also an important part of reducing our nation’s dependency on foreign energy supplies, and

**WHEREAS** Colorado is also home to some of the most spectacular wildlife habitat in the world and it is important to ensure that development of our energy resources is done in a manner that takes other important natural resources into account, and

**WHEREAS** the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) is required by HB07-1298 and HB07-1341 to determine the need for new regulations concerning public health and wildlife and to involve the Division of Wildlife (DOW) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) in the development of appropriate regulations, and

**WHEREAS** the COGCC is responsible for overseeing the development of Colorado’s oil and gas reserves and aspects of this responsibility are highly technical, requiring many years of study and experience to be proficient in this decision-making, and

**WHEREAS** oil and gas development is a capital intensive and high risk business requiring regulatory consistency and predictability to justify the necessary investment, and

**WHEREAS** oil and gas operations contribute \$23 billion to Colorado’s economy and employ approximately 71,000 people, and

**WHEREAS** Colorado contains five geologically diverse energy basins requiring tailored regulatory schemes, and

**WHEREAS** existing COGCC rules governing oil and gas development have been continually updated and improved over the last 40 years;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Club 20 believes that rules regarding the development of Colorado’s oil and gas reserves should:

- Support and encourage the development of Colorado’s oil and gas reserves,

- Not be duplicative or unnecessarily restrictive so as to create regulatory processes that will reduce capital investment in Colorado or cause further delays to permitting processes,
- Provide an efficient and timely process for the application and issuance of permits to drill,
- Provide appropriate protections for public health, wildlife and the environment,
- Respect the rights of private landowners and not be used to place additional land-use restrictions on their private land,
- Respect the right of mineral owners to develop their minerals, and
- Be analyzed to assess their cumulative economic effects on industry before the State considers any changes to the industry's tax burden.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that input from technical and industry experts should be adequately reflected in the rules, and.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, concerning the enforcement of oil & gas regulations, the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission should defer to local wildlife management plans where such plans exist.

*Adopted April 4, 2008*