

**COLORADO
MOUNTAIN COLLEGE**

April 20, 2018

Honorable Daniel Pabon
Chair
House Finance Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
200 Colfax Avenue, Room 307
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Pabon,

On behalf of the Colorado Mountain College Board of Trustees, I write to express Colorado Mountain College's support of HB18-1387.

Unlike the majority of public colleges in the state, CMC is a local district college. This means that the college is funded via property taxes in the college's district, including Garfield County, which has many oil and gas operators.

In 2018 local governments in Garfield County, including CMC, were asked to pay more than \$850,000 in interest payments resulting from a producer's self-reported accounting errors. Garfield County Commissioners agreed to pay nearly all of these interest payments, a penalty that effectively lowered the county's capacity to deliver certain services to its citizens.

We believe that, by and large, oil and gas industries in Western Colorado are honest, reliable operators and good partners to CMC. However, unforced errors happen in all businesses. Under current law, local governments are required to pay a penalty for these mistakes, which is unfair and misapplied. HB18-1387 would not harm oil and gas producers, but would ensure that local governments not pay for producers' miscalculations.

We thank Rep. Bob Rankin for his attention to this matter and his leadership in offering relief to local governments in Western Colorado and request the House Finance Committee supports HB18-1387.

Sincerely,

Carrie Besnette Hauser, Ph.D.
President and CEO

CC: Representative Bob Rankin