



Counties & Commissioners Acting Together

Counties and individual commissioners across Colorado working to provide a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the statehouse. Collectively, CCAT represents all regions of the state and the diversity of issues facing every corner of Colorado.

April 26, 2018

Dear Chairwoman Ginal,

On behalf of Counties and Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT), we are pleased to submit the following letter of support for **HB 1352: Oil and Gas Facilities Distance from School Property**. CCAT's mission is to represent the collective voice of Colorado's counties through advocacy that is characterized by collaborative leadership and commitment to a common, statewide purpose.

CCAT Commissioners support the legislation as it is a clarification of current Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission rules regarding setback distances from schools and child care facilities. Current rules state that oil and gas operations must be located at least 1,000 feet from school and child care facilities in order to mitigate health and environmental impacts. While that 1,000-foot setback is appropriate for current facilities, it does not consider future buildings or use of outdoor space for athletics or other activities. Furthermore, the bill contemplates the new setback distance only for new oil and gas operations, and grandfathers in operations actively in use or permitted for operations.

Members of CCAT represent a broad group of counties across the state, including counties with oil and gas production capacity. Specifically, San Miguel County located in the Paradox Basin area has been home to oil and gas production in past years, and currently has several active operations. Commissioners in San Miguel and other mountain and frontier counties see HB 18-1352 as a modest change to allow for the growth of schools, while protecting the public health of school or child care students and staff, in addition to the greater community.

In Boulder County this issue has become the number one most vocalized concern for area residents. This due to numerous recent events that demonstrate oil and gas extraction can be a dangerous industrial activity that poses significant risk – to workers, to homeowners, to babies and children, and to the health of our air, water, and soil.

When citizens express worry that oil and gas activities threaten the health and safety of their families, they do so with good reason. Numerous studies have document the significant health and safety concerns associated with resource extraction near human activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Tim Mauck - *Co-Chair, CCAT*
Commissioner of Clear Creek County

Rachel Richards - *Co-Chair, CCAT*
Commissioner of Pitkin County



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