

RESOLUTION NO BOCC 2014-229

A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Mesa County, Colorado,

**Supporting the Existing Statutory and Regulatory Framework
For Local Authority Over Oil and Gas Operations**

WHEREAS, oil and natural gas production and the jobs and economic activity it generates is a proven pillar of the Colorado economy and led the state out of the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, oil and natural gas development in Colorado alone generated \$29.6 billion for the state economy, contributed \$1.6 billion in public tax revenue (equal to \$817/household) and supported more than 110,000 jobs in 2012; and

WHEREAS, oil and natural gas development provides \$682 million a year to Colorado school districts, emergency response, water and sanitation, parks and recreation, libraries and other public entities without raising a single tax on Colorado families; and

WHEREAS, Colorado energy prices are 23% below the national average because of the abundant supplies of natural gas in the state; and

WHEREAS, reasonable access to oil and natural gas fuels Colorado's real estate economy, manufacturing economy, homebuilders economy, and the agriculture economy, as well as other industries through non-direct support to provide overall stability and job growth for all Colorado families; and

WHEREAS, after collaboration with state health officials, environmentalists, local communities and industry, over the past six years, Colorado has enacted some of the nation's most stringent regulations protecting Coloradans' groundwater, air quality, land, communities, and environment; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was the first state to require both pre- and post-drilling water sampling, as well as methane emission testing, and the state is a national leader in requiring the disclosure of fracking fluid ingredients in a publicly available Internet database; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional regulations represent best practices nationally, are state of the art technologically and are considered fully protective of public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, a vast majority of Colorado counties have already proven their ability to successfully regulate and negotiate in good faith with the industry to strike a balance between private, state and local interests; and

WHEREAS, local communities can also enter into negotiated, legally-enforceable Memorandums of Understanding with oil and gas operators to benefit the public and ensure ongoing exploration and development; and

WHEREAS, local governments are already using their authority and standing in the statutorily-sanctioned Local Government Designee program to rationally, prudently and successfully have their concerns addressed; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has dedicated resources and staff to work with local governments and addressing local concerns by incorporating them into regulations and permit conditions; and

WHEREAS, certainty of local and state rules and regulations is necessary for businesses, local governments, and mineral owners to protect and advance their interests for the betterment of Colorado citizens; and

WHEREAS, local agriculture owners and workers, many of whom are one of the 600,000 mineral owners in Colorado, support the current system, which protects their farms and allows development of their mineral interests.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MESA, STATE OF COLORADO THAT: Mesa County Commissioners support the existing statutory and regulatory framework for local authority and do not believe additional clarification is necessary at this time; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MESA, STATE OF COLORADO THAT: Mesa County Commissioners urge Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) to communicate this position to the Governor of the State of Colorado, and encourage the Governor and the Governor's Task Force on State and Local Regulation of Oil and Gas Operations to seek additional input from Colorado's county commissioners before making any legislative or regulatory recommendations on local or state authority over oil and gas operations.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MESA COUNTY, COLORADO

BY: *John Justman*
John Justman, Chair

[Signature]
Rose Puglise, Commissioner

[Signature]
Steve Acquafresca, Commissioner

Attest:

Sheila Reiner, by Lou Westerman, Deputy
Mesa County Clerk & Recorder
Sheila Reiner