

RESOLUTION NO.

19-10

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 19-181 SETBACK REQUIREMENTS FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Colorado is a major energy-producing state, ranked 5th in the nation of natural gas production and 7th in the nation in oil production, according to U.S. governmental data;

WHEREAS, Colorado is widely recognized as a national leader in developing health, safety and environmental protections;

WHEREAS, oil and natural gas development is a critical sector of the Colorado economy, supporting jobs and supplying locally produced and affordable energy to household and businesses across Colorado;

WHEREAS, more than 232,000 jobs in Colorado are supported by oil and natural gas development, equivalent to 6.5 percent of the total employment of the state, according to a 2017 study by globally renowned accounting firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The same study states oil and natural gas development in Colorado supports \$31 billion in economic activity, which is almost 10 percent of the state economy;

WHEREAS, the loss of Colorado's energy sector would devastate the state economy, cripple state and local budgets and threaten the livelihoods of hundreds or thousands of working families including those in the Town of Hudson;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 19-181 is a one-size-fits-all, blunt instrument that could create a de facto ban on oil and gas production, even in communities that embrace responsible energy development, showing that the proponents do not support local control as they claim;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 19-181 goes much further than simply putting health and safety first, as supporters of the bill claim, because it doesn't make technical and economic considerations secondary—in fact they can't be considered at all, which is counter to broad business practices throughout our economy;

WHEREAS, it would give local governments the ability to create larger setbacks, which could have the effect of banning oil and natural gas developments based on politically based and incorrect views about health and safety, rather than scientific data about health and safety;

WHEREAS, the bill would give sweeping, subjective new powers to local governments over the oil and natural gas process. Local restrictions, prohibitions, and unlimited fees could be justified simply by claiming "nuisance-type effects" or assessing impacts to "cultural resources," for example. The bill provides no requirement that local governments demonstrate the capacity and technical expertise to establish and manage their own oil and gas regulatory programs;

WHEREAS, the bill would establish that whenever a regulatory conflict exists between a state and local government, or multiple state agencies, the jurisdiction with the toughest regulations would prevail, even if such regulation is based on politics rather than scientific data; and

WHEREAS, the bill would remove experts in engineering and geology from the COGCC, the 9-member panel that makes oil and gas regulatory decisions Colorado. Engineering and geology are the two fundamental disciplines in developing and regulating oil and natural gas. Without experts in these disciplines at the decision-making level, the COGCC will have a much harder time determining where oil and gas wells can be located in ways that both allow energy to be developed and at the same time meet health, safety, welfare, environment and wildlife standards.

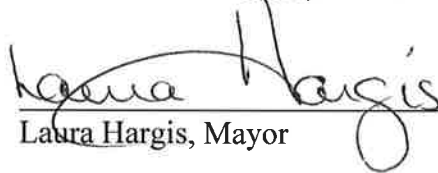
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HUDSON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Town Council opposes Senate Bill 19-181 and strongly urges citizens to contact their state legislators and tell them to vote no on Senate Bill 19-181.

INTRODUCED, READ and PASSED this 3 day of April, 2019.



TOWN OF HUDSON, COLORADO



Laura Hargis, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



Charity Young, Town Clerk