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S.WARD
10:35A.M.

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

Colorado Secretary of State

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add article XXX as follows:

ARTICLE XXX

Mandatory Setback of Oil and Gas Wells

Section 1. Purposes and findings. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO FIND AND DECLARE:

(a) THAT THE CONDUCT OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, MAY IMPACT PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT;

(b) THAT ANY IMPACTS ARE EXPERIENCED MOST DIRECTLY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES;

(c) THAT SUCH IMPACTS ARE MINIMIZED AND MITIGATED BY LOCATING WELLS AWAY FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES; AND

(d) THAT TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT, THE PEOPLE DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE SETBACK REQUIRING NEW OIL AND GAS WELLS BE LOCATED AWAY FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES, INCLUDING HOMES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS.

Section 2. Grant of authority. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO HEREBY ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE SETBACK THAT ALL NEW OIL AND GAS WELLS REQUIRING A STATE OR LOCAL PERMIT, INCLUDING THOSE USING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, MUST BE LOCATED AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FEET FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "OCCUPIED STRUCTURE" MEANS ANY BUILDING OR STRUCTURE THAT REQUIRES A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY, OR BUILDING OR STRUCTURE INTENDED FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY, INCLUDING HOMES, SCHOOLS, AND HOSPITALS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS" MEANS EXPLORATION FOR AND PRODUCTION OF COLORADO'S OIL, GAS, OTHER GASEOUS AND LIQUID HYDROCARBONS, AND CARBON DIOXIDE. A LANDOWNER MAY WAIVE THIS SETBACK WITH REGARD TO AN OCCUPIED STRUCTURE LOCATED ON THE LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY.

Section 3. Not a taking. APPLICATION OF THE STATEWIDE SETBACK ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED A TAKING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY NOR REQUIRE THE PAYMENT OF JUST COMPENSATION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 14 AND 15 OF ARTICLE II OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION.

Section 4. Self executing, severability, conflicting provisions. ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE ARE SELF-EXECUTING, ARE SEVERABLE, AND SHALL SUPERSEDE CONFLICTING STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. LAWS AND REGULATIONS MAY BE ENACTED TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF THIS ARTICLE, BUT THEY CANNOT REDUCE THE SETBACK STANDARD OR THE POWERS AND RIGHTS ESTABLISHED IN THIS ARTICLE.