

2013-2014 #87 Original

VERSION #1C

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

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2014

Colorado Secretary of State

S.WARD 1:15 P.M.

The constitution of the state of Colorado is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE: ***

2,640 FOOT STATEWIDE SETBACK FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES FOR NEW OIL AND GAS WELLS

SECTION 1. PURPOSES AND FINDINGS.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO FIND AND DECLARE THAT THE CONDUCT OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, MAY IMPACT PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT; THAT ANY IMPACTS ARE EXPERIENCED MOST DIRECTLY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES; THAT SUCH IMPACTS ARE MINIMIZED AND MITIGATED BY LOCATING WELLS AWAY FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES; AND 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 TO BE LOCATED AWAY FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO 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, INCLUDING THOSE USING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, SHALL BE LOCATED AT LEAST 2640 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 BUT NOT LIMITED TO 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. THE OWNER OF A HOME MAY WAIVE THIS SETBACK ONLY WITH REGARD TO THE OWNER’S HOME.

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 ART. II, SECTIONS 14 AND 15 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 IN NO WAY SHALL THEY LIMIT OR RESTRICT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE OR THE POWERS AND RIGHTS HEREIN GRANTED.