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Initiative 2015-2016 #65

Colorado Secretary of State

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

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

### ARTICLE XXX

#### Mandatory Setback from Oil and Gas Development

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

(a) THAT OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, HAS DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT;

(b) THAT SUCH IMPACTS ARE REDUCED BY LOCATING OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES AWAY FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES AND AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN; AND

(c) THAT TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT, THE PEOPLE DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A SETBACK REQUIRING ALL NEW OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES IN THE STATE OF COLORADO TO BE LOCATED AWAY FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES, INCLUDING HOMES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS; AS WELL AS AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN.

#### **Section 2. Definitions.**

(a) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT" MEANS EXPLORATION FOR AND DRILLING, PRODUCTION, AND PROCESSING OF OIL, GAS, OTHER GASEOUS AND LIQUID HYDROCARBONS, AND CARBON DIOXIDE, AS WELL AS THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH EXPLORATION, DRILLING, PRODUCTION, AND PROCESSING. "OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND ASSOCIATED COMPONENTS.

(b) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT FACILITY" INCLUDES THE SITE OF OIL, GAS AND CARBON DIOXIDE WELLS; PITS AND WELLS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF ASSOCIATED WASTE PRODUCTS, INCLUDING UNDERGROUND INJECTION WELLS; AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING FACILITIES.

(c) 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.

(d) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN" INCLUDES PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER SOURCES, LAKES, RIVERS, PERENNIAL OR INTERMITTENT STREAMS, CREEKS, IRRIGATION CANALS, RIPARIAN AREAS, PLAYGROUNDS, PERMANENT SPORTS FIELDS, AMPHITHEATERS, PUBLIC PARKS, AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.

**Section 3. Grant of authority.** THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO HEREBY ESTABLISH THAT ALL NEW OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE THAT USE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, MUST BE LOCATED AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FEET FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES AND AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, RE-ENTRY OF AN OIL OR GAS WELL PREVIOUSLY PLUGGED AND/OR ABANDONED SHALL BE CONSIDERED A NEW WELL.

**Section 4. Prohibition of new occupied structures within drilling setbacks.** NO LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY ALLOW THE BUILDING OF NEW OCCUPIED STRUCTURES CLOSER TO OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES THAN GRANTED IN SECTION 3 OF THIS ARTICLE.

**Section 5. Ability of local governments to establish larger setbacks.** LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAY REQUIRE THAT OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES BE LOCATED A LARGER DISTANCE AWAY FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES THAN GRANTED IN SECTION 3 OF THIS ARTICLE.

**Section 6. 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 CANNOT IN ANY WAY REDUCE THE SETBACK STANDARD OR THE POWERS AND RIGHTS ESTABLISHED IN THIS ARTICLE.