

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 Wells

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 WELLS AND WELLS USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT 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 OR RE-ENTERED OIL AND GAS WELLS AND WELLS USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT 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, 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, THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING.

(b) 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.

(c) 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 A STATEWIDE SETBACK THAT ALL NEW OR RE-ENTERED OIL AND GAS WELLS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE THAT USE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, AND WELLS USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT MUST BE LOCATED AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FEET FROM OCCUPIED STRUCTURES AND AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN.

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 WELLS AND/OR WELLS USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT 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 WELLS AND/OR WELLS USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT 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.