

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1091.02 Thomas Morris x4218

HJR16-1020

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

DelGrosso,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1020

101 CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE BENEFITS AND IMPORTANCE OF
102 THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY TO THE CITIZENS OF
103 COLORADO.

1 WHEREAS, The oil and natural gas industry is an essential
2 economic driver in the state of Colorado, supporting more than 213,000
3 jobs and contributing \$31.7 billion to the state economy, \$7.6 billion in
4 compensation, and more than \$400 million through property taxes in 2014
5 to Colorado school districts and the state land board school trust; and

6 WHEREAS, Colorado ranks 6th in natural gas production and 7th
7 in oil production nationwide, and in 2013 ranked 19th worldwide in
8 natural gas production, ahead of countries such as Pakistan, Thailand, and
9 Venezuela; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, The average salary in the oil and natural gas industry
2 is \$105,000, double the average wage of other industries in Colorado; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2015 U.S. oil and natural gas industry work force
4 included more than 237,000 oil, natural gas, and petrochemical jobs filled
5 by women—a number that is projected to grow by 22% over the next 20
6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Of the total number of oil and natural gas industry
8 jobs in the Mountain Region (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado,
9 Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico), women account for 15%
10 (20,214 jobs) and Hispanic workers account for 20% (26,314 jobs); and

11 WHEREAS, IHS (an industry market research consultant)
12 estimated that average U.S. household income was \$1,200 higher in 2012
13 thanks to energy from shale oil and natural gas, and estimated that this
14 figure could reach \$3,500 a year in 2025; and

15 WHEREAS, Average household energy costs in Colorado are 27%
16 less than the national average, due in large part to historically lower
17 natural gas prices in the state; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2014, American households were estimated to
19 enjoy about \$800 in annual savings from lower energy costs attributable
20 to unconventional natural gas, and to reap additional savings from lower
21 oil prices; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
23 concluded after a five-year study that "hydraulic fracturing activities have
24 not led to widespread, systematic impacts to drinking water resources";
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The oil and natural gas industry has invested \$302
27 billion since 1990 to improve its environmental performance; and

28 WHEREAS, Nonattainment area emissions of volatile organic
29 compounds from oil and natural gas have decreased in Colorado by 45%
30 between 2011 and 2016, while oil production has increased by 220%; and

31 WHEREAS, The oil and natural gas industry is very active in
32 communities throughout the state, including one operator that contributed
33 more than \$2 million to local organizations in 2014, another operator that

1 partnered with more than 30 Colorado organizations providing financial
2 support and volunteer time, and employees of one operator who
3 contributed more than 900 hours to working with the United Way; and

4 WHEREAS, In the last five years, Colorado has had 10 major
5 rulemakings, leading to the country's toughest rules for oil and gas
6 development that protect our people, our air, and our water; and

7 WHEREAS, The State Review of Oil and Natural Gas
8 Environmental Regulations (STRONGER), a state review process
9 cooperatively started by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and
10 the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, reported after an
11 extensive review of Colorado hydraulic fracturing regulations that "The
12 review team has concluded that the Colorado program is well managed
13 and professional"; now, therefore,

14 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*
15 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

16 That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize the oil
17 and natural gas industry in Colorado and hereby extend our gratitude for
18 the positive contributions it makes to improving the lives of all
19 Coloradans.

20 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
21 to Governor John Hickenlooper; Sally Jewell, secretary of the United
22 States department of the interior; Dan Haley, president and chief
23 executive officer of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association; Tracee
24 Bentley, executive director of the Colorado Petroleum Council; Stan
25 Dempsey, president of the Colorado Petroleum Association; and each
26 member of Colorado's congressional delegation.