



SB19-181 - Protect Public Welfare Oil and Gas Operations

Monday March 25, 2019

KELLY BROUGH

President & CEO

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

TESTIMONY

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce has been in business in Colorado for 152 years. Today we represent 3000 members – companies diverse in industry, sector and size. Key to our success in representing such a diverse membership for decades has been the commitment to data and economic analysis and our recognition that we must balance differing views.

We thank Speaker Becker and this committee for the opportunity to once again express our concerns with SB 181 and appreciate your consideration in advance.

We have long engaged in discussions about the regulation of energy production - for decades in fact. We respect the differing views engaged in these conversations, but we maintain a belief that we must take care of our environment and our economy as well as recognize the national security it provides for our country.

While there are a number of amendments that we believe would make this bill work better for all of Colorado, there are two we will focus on today. First, we must allow continued operations under the current high standards established for the state while local governments make their own rules. Colorado voters have expressed their confidence in both the industry and our ability as a state to do this when they rejected Proposition 112. We ask that you honor the will of the voters and allow operations be maintained while local rules are developed.

We also ask that you treat local communities fairly, recognizing that a local community should not be allowed to eliminate oil and gas operations completely, nor can they completely ignore the safety of its residents – it must be a balance. We know outright bans are absolutely being considered as you debate this legislation given the recent communication we have seen out of Adams County. And we feel strongly that, in light of what voters told us in November, this legislation should not aim to reduce or ban the industry. We ask that you require that local regulations be “reasonable and necessary,” which is a high standard that encourages all of us to continue to work together. Of course, no one on either side of this issue would want unreasonable and unnecessary regulation, so we ask this criteria be included.