

April 13, 2023

Office of the Speaker of the House
200 E Colfax
RM 307
Denver, CO, 80203
United States

Office of the President of the Senate
200 E Colfax
Denver, CO, 80203
United States

Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie and President of the Senate Steve Fenberg:

We proudly represent various elements of Colorado's industrial sector, providing the people of our state with the safe, reliable and affordable necessities of everyday life. As our state continues its recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the women and men who comprise our diverse industries fully intend to continue serving as foundational drivers of Colorado's economic vibrancy.

It is with disappointment and frustration that we feel compelled to write this letter. In recent days, we have learned that a handful of lawmakers will soon introduce legislation related to air quality permitting. The bill targets oil and gas but its broad sweep would affect numerous industries, while bringing back the state's failed attempt to limit Coloradans' ability to drive to work. If passed and signed into law, the bill would have profoundly negative consequences for our state. It ignores the carefully considered measures Colorado has taken and has underway and compels state regulatory agencies to impose a byzantine regime so onerous that it would quickly grind to a halt the state's permitting process.

To date, the sponsors of this forthcoming legislation have convened a very limited stakeholder process with just a couple of the many potentially impacted industries. The bill's sponsors have otherwise engaged in very little outreach, allowing [environmental activists](#) to help draft the bill while excluding the business community.

The business groups impacted by the bill received a draft mere days before its sponsors plan to introduce it and are increasingly bewildered to have been largely excluded from discussions surrounding this proposal. While the measure is assuredly the latest in a yearslong series of bills aimed at ultimately driving Colorado's oil and natural gas industry out of the state, its reach would be much wider and the consequences for everyday Coloradans more acute. Earlier this year, Coloradans faced [among the highest gas prices in the nation](#), a direct result of pursuant logistics and supply chain issues. As described, this proposal would effectively logjam permitting to the point of shutting down oil and natural gas production in the largest producing basin of America's fifth-highest producing state during a time of global unrest and ongoing supply/demand imbalance. The bill invites lawsuits against Colorado businesses, even if state regulators have determined their air emissions complied with all applicable laws.

Colorado has led the nation in cutting emissions and improving the environment over the past decade-plus, as our industries have engaged in dozens of rulemakings before numerous regulatory bodies, with further rulemakings scheduled in the coming months and years. Methane emissions from Front Range oil and gas operations have fallen by 70% since 2013, as documented by two satellites and a CDPHE air quality monitor. The proposed legislation doesn't acknowledge that progress toward our shared environmental goals, and instead simply aims to decimate the state's industrial sector with no mind paid to the consequences on ordinary Coloradans.

This is anti-business legislation, and it will hurt Coloradans. We urge Colorado lawmakers to reject this proposal. We likewise strongly encourage lawmakers who seek to introduce legislation affecting entire sectors of Colorado's economy to substantively engage with affected parties and industries, not just special interest groups. We always stand ready to problem-solve and to find solutions to the issues of our days for the betterment of the state and hope that lawmakers will do the same going forward.

Thank you for your consideration.





Powersports
Dealers
Association of
Colorado