

Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

August 9, 2018

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We, the undersigned groups, are asking you to intervene regarding a plan by Extraction Oil and Gas to drill 84 wells in Broomfield and on the border of Adams County. Their plan will turn our neighborhoods into large-scale, multi-site industrial operations in the midst of neighborhoods, parks, schools, and water reservoirs (one future), and on designated open space. The increased proximity, intensity, and scale of industrial drilling referred to during your 2014 Blue Ribbon Task Force has come to Broomfield's residents and neighboring counties. On August 1st, COGCC Commissioner Howard Boigon said that no project of this scale has ever been tried near residential communities. The recent success of the setback initiative indicates that residents are fearful and trying to gain some control of the situation.

While some city officials, Extraction, and Commissioners are extolling the Broomfield process as being exemplary of cities and the industry working well together, nine local governments including Broomfield wrote to you on October 27, 2017 stating that, regardless of one's support or opposition to oil and gas development, *"there is a large and growing consensus that this intensive industrial activity does NOT belong in residential neighborhoods, near schools or hospitals, or in close proximity to drinking water supplies."* We have been very involved in Broomfield on a number of levels: oil and gas task force members, passing 301, ongoing research of scientific and data-based literature, scrutiny of drilling plans and regulations, testifying at legislative and COGCC hearings, and providing feedback to the city on regulation updates, air quality monitoring, risks, emergency response and other issues.

Extraction continues to resist assuring the protection of public health, safety, welfare, and the environment and wildlife resources and instead proclaims that they have done enough while rushing the process by submitting and resubmitting low quality drilling plans. Rather than reducing the originally proposed total of 141 wells in Broomfield, Extraction worked to move them to other jurisdictions causing border wars. Through extended negotiations, some wells were moved from the most highly rated sites to lower rated areas close to Adams County residents. Another set of wells was moved out of Broomfield to unincorporated Weld County just across Highway 7 but still near neighborhoods in Broomfield and Erie. Extraction has threatened to sue the City and some Council Members for pushing back. As a member of the 2014 Oil and Gas Task Force said, the industry is running roughshod over communities.

COGCC Commissioner Ashley Ager told Extraction at the August 1st hearing that they have no room for error now. Given Extraction's generally resistive attitude and the complexities of development, error is more than likely to occur per quantitative and qualitative risk analyses that community risk management specialists have done using COGCC data. Extraction, however, refuses to do such analyses even though they agreed to do so in negotiations with the city (CDP §W7.5#6). We suspect that their resistance has to do with increased costs, as well as the magnitude of cumulative risks to the community that an accurate analysis will show.

Colorado may have some of the strictest regulations in the country but we all know that the rules developed and applied were meant for old technology in rural areas. Meanwhile, permits for thousands of wells have been granted in populated areas, and old wells need to be plugged and abandoned with the cost being shifted to taxpayers. COGCC staff has trouble keeping up with permits and with monitoring and regulating operations. Changes in rules and legislation have been minor, slow and heavily resisted by the industry. Colorado's Oil and Gas regulatory system is broken.

While the industry insists that they can do whatever they want, accidents continue to happen, such as the explosion at Extraction's newly developed Stromberger pad in Windsor and the major leak at the Berthoud site where new drilling likely damaged the structural integrity of an existing well. We are the ones who end up paying the bulk of the costs while the industry reaps the profits and spends millions to protect their interests. Yet, the industry regularly complains about the cost of changes in regulations that improve protections to health, safety, welfare, and the environment.

We implore you to close out your term as our Governor by doing the right thing. One year ago, you said "never again" regarding the deadly Firestone explosion. Please lead again and represent the people of Colorado over the oil and gas industry as we face unprecedented development that turns neighborhoods and schoolyards into heavy industrial zones. This means insisting that the COGCC change their rules quickly to counter industry bullying and sense of entitlement. This means giving localities more control by supporting Broomfield staff and council in assuring health and safety, and it means directing COGCC Director Julie Murphy to say no to the current Extraction proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Broomfield Coalition

Laurie Anderson

920-378-9654 / laurie.anderson1@yahoo.com

- LOGIC - League of Oil and Gas Impacted Coloradans
- Broomfield Moms Active Community
- One Broomfield Indivisible
- BCCN - Broomfield Concerned a Coalition of Neighborhoods
- WOGc - Wildgrass Oil and Gas Committee
- 301 Broomfield Health and Safety First
- BCAW - Broomfield Clean Air and Water
- ACCDAN - Adams County Communities for Drilling Accountability Now
- FRRESH - Front Range Residents for Environment, Safety, and Health
- AROGEG - Anthem Ranch Oil and Gas Education Group

cc: Bob Randall, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Julie Murphy, Executive Director, COGCC
Randy Ahrens, Mayor, City and County of Broomfield
Kathleen Staks, Executive Director, Colorado Energy Office



**One Broomfield
Indivisible**



*Broomfield
Moms Active
Community*



WOGc
Wildgrass
Oil & Gas Committee

