



**WESTERN RESOURCE**  
ADVOCATES

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## **Colorado Committee Releases Report on Hydraulic Fracturing *Report Fails to Address Vital Issues of Setbacks and Self-Regulation***

**BOULDER, Colo.**— Following the release of the Colorado Hydraulic Fracturing State Review, Western Resource Advocates is calling on Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper to do more to protect Colorado's citizens and water from the threat of fracking oil and gas wells.

A public-private committee dubbed STRONGER<sup>1</sup> released an in-depth review<sup>2</sup> of the Colorado hydraulic fracturing regulatory program on Friday, Oct. 28. The committee recognized several positive aspects of Colorado's 2007 oil and gas rulemaking, but noted five specific areas of concern—most importantly the need to a) better protect groundwater quality, and b) to better understand where the industry will find the millions of gallons of water needed for fracking (and what that means for the environment and for other water users in Colorado).

The most significant piece of the STRONGER report is about what is *not* included. The report does not address Colorado's draft disclosure rule for fracking chemicals; a proposal to allow the oil and gas industry to self-regulate on its FRAC-Focus website; or the need to increase residential setback requirements from the current minimum levels (150 feet for rural areas; 350 feet for urban areas). These issues are vital to ensure the safety of all Coloradans, regardless of where they live, and some need to be undertaken immediately.

"There is an urgent need to increase Colorado's residential setbacks," said **Mike Chiropolos, Lands Program Director at Western Resource Advocates** (WRA). "The single most important thing that Colorado can do to protect homeowners in the gas patch is to increase the distance between drilling rigs and our homes."

There are currently 45,000 active oil and gas wells in Colorado, and more than 5,000 new permits were approved in 2010 alone. The STRONGER report will help set the stage for potential reforms and regulations of fracking in 2012.

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*Western Resource Advocates is a Boulder-based nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air, and water. For more information, visit [www.WesternResourceAdvocates.org](http://www.WesternResourceAdvocates.org).*

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<sup>1</sup> STRONGER: State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations. STRONGER is "a multi-profit, multi-stakeholder organization named State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulation, Inc." State oil and gas regulatory agencies and industry are the primary stakeholders ([strongerinc.org](http://strongerinc.org))

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.strongerinc.org/documents/Colorado%20HF%20Review%202011.pdf>

