Conservation Colorado – Western Resource Advocates

News Statement

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Conservation Groups Applaud Oil and Gas Commission for Strengthening Rules
New COGCC Rules Better Protect Public Safety, Health and Environment

DENVER, CO – Today the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) finalized rules that will assess mandatory fines for violations that represent a threat to public health, safety, or the environment. This new ruling was a strong improvement over prior rules where violations that threaten public health and safety, groundwater contamination and environmental degradation (classified as moderate violations) were fined at the complete discretion of the Commission. These new rules implement HB 1356, bipartisan legislation Governor Hickenlooper signed into law to increase Colorado’s oil and gas fines and penalties for the first time in decades.

Statement from Pete Maysmith, Executive Director of Conservation Colorado:

“This is good news for Coloradans concerned about heavy industrial oil and gas development occurring near their homes, communities, and schools. It is important to hold the oil and gas industry accountable for significant violations, not only to act as a deterrent but to protect the health and safety of Coloradans and our environment. We applaud the COGCC for their support of mandatory fines and will continue to work to hold the State and the oil and gas industry accountable for drilling and fracking impacts to Coloradans communities, and our quality of life.”

Statement from Jon Goldin-Dubois, President of Western Resource Advocates:

“We applaud the Commission passing these stronger standards with consistent mandatory penalties for significant offenses. This is a step forward in holding the industry accountable. It is critical that Coloradans have certainty that their communities, health, clean air, and water are protected. Residents across Colorado have been looking for more oversight and these new rules make important progress.”

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