News Statement

Jon Goldin-Dubois, President of Western Resource Advocates,
Comments on Oil and Gas Task Force

“Task Force Takes Small Strides But Fails on Main Objective”

COLORADO (February 25, 2014) - Western Resource Advocates President, Jon Goldin-Dubois, had these comments on the Oil and Gas Task Force recent Recommendations sent to the Governor:

“The Task Force made small strides but failed to address our central task, providing people in communities and local governments with new tools to protect their homes, public health & safety, and the environment. While a handful of modest recommendations were adopted addressing health studies and regulatory staffing the Task Force didn’t give residents and local governments the tools they need to manage the industrial oil and gas development that we are seeing in Colorado today. The majority of members of the Task Force saw resolving the conflict between local government and oil and gas development as the central issue. Unfortunately, the oil and gas industry blocked the most meaningful recommendations on local government’s role in protecting its citizens.

There is much more work to be done. People want to protect their homes, their children and their communities. But the scale of the industrial oil and gas development and the proximity to homes, to schools and to other centers of our communities in Colorado is turning soccer moms and retirees into activists. Unless the industry and the state do a better job of collaborating with residents and local governments, we are going to continue to see more and more conflict over oil and gas development.”

For the last 25 years Western Resource Advocates has worked to protect the region’s air, land and water. With offices in six western states, Western Resource Advocate’s works to craft innovative solutions to complex natural resource challenges. The organization shapes a clean energy future that reduces pollution, protects our unique western lands, and addresses climate change. The organization restores degraded rivers and champions solutions to ensure a reliable water future. Go to www.westernresourceadvocates.org and follow us on Twitter @WRADV.