

PETITION TO GOV. JARED POLIS

*Supporting #BoldClimateLeadership, a
Just Transition to 100% Renewable
Energy, and Protecting Communities
from Fracking*

**Supported by 180+
organizations and groups
representing over 100,000
Coloradans, plus over 5,000
individual signers**

Petition to Colorado Governor Jared Polis

Calling for #BoldClimateLeadership --> Meaningful Action to Protect Colorado Communities from Fracking and to Address Climate Change through a Just & Equitable Transition to Renewable Energy

Dear Governor Jared Polis,

We are writing on behalf of a broad coalition of organizations and with regard to over one million Colorado voters who are demanding greater protection of public health and safety as it relates to oil and gas development and encouraging bold action to address the climate crisis.

We call on you to take necessary, bold action to protect Colorado communities from irresponsible oil and gas operations and to promote a just, timely transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Scientists have stressed the need for swift action, with the International Panel on Climate Change recently warning that global temperature rise must not exceed 1.5C to avoid catastrophic climate change. The report forecasts that we have just 12 years for an unprecedented reduction in emissions if we're to stay below the 1.5C, and avoid out of control, escalating climate impacts. Coloradans are already experiencing the health and safety risks of climate change through more intense wildfires, droughts, floods, temperature extremes, the pine-beetle epidemic, vector-borne disease, impacts on agriculture, impacts on winter sports, tourism and more.

Oil and gas operations are contributing significantly to climate change through pervasive leaks of the potent greenhouse gas methane, which is 86 times more heat-trapping than carbon dioxide, over a 20 year span. Current methane leakage rates yield no climate benefit of switching from coal to fracked gas. Scientists tell us that the vast majority of fossil fuels must stay in the ground in order to stay below 1.5C. Therefore, part the COGCC's current mission to "foster" oil and gas development is seriously outdated, dangerous, and must be dropped. To meet our state's health, safety, and climate goals, Colorado must take immediate and meaningful actions to reduce oil and gas development and accelerate transition to a renewable energy future.

Our elected officials and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) have thus far failed in their duty to adequately protect the public health and safety of Colorado communities, and we ask you, our new Governor-elect, to take swift measures to address these concerns.

As you are aware, the past decade has ushered in a fracking boom that has coincided with a population explosion in our state, with many of the wells being drilled ever closer to homes, schools, and vulnerable areas such as drinking water sources. Communities have risen up to protect themselves from the onslaught of fracking by passing local bans and moratoria, lobbying local officials and the state Legislature, and through hundreds of hours of testimony and thousands of complaints to the COGCC - all to no avail. Fracking is still being permitted within the half-mile distance that numerous public health studies show increases risk of harm, including cancer, respiratory problems, birth defects, low birth weight babies and

more, and that firefighters recommend as an evacuation radius from fires and explosions - of which there have been 17 since the deadly Firestone tragedy. Meanwhile, fracking companies in the U.S. are over \$200B in debt and have never made a single year of positive operating cash flow in aggregate, leaving many analysts to predict an industry bust in coming years that will leave our communities saddled with the cleanup of tens of thousands of toxic, leaking, abandoned well sites.

Last fall, over one million Colorado voters showed their support for 2500' setbacks from homes, schools, playgrounds, water sources and other vulnerable areas through yes votes on Proposition 112. The measure came within six percentage points of passing despite an unprecedented \$40M opposition campaign from the oil and gas industry and being outspent 40:1. This is a strong message from Coloradans demanding protective action now.

In line with the above, we call for your leadership in efforts to:

- **Promote a just, timely transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy** in line with the recent IPCC report that says that global temperature rise must be kept below 1.5C to avoid the most dire climate impacts. Achieving that goal without relying on unproven carbon capture and storage technologies will require net neutral greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 or sooner (for 66% chance of success).
- **Protect Communities from Fracking & Reform the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission:**
 - Work with the Legislature to **revamp the COGCC's mission statement to eliminate "fostering" the oil and gas industry**, which is no longer appropriate in the 21st Century with a climate crisis. This agency's mission must focus on regulating the industry with a primary goal of protecting public health, safety and environmental quality including a livable climate. Also, loophole language for "variances" to rules and regulations in COGCC Rule 502b(1) must also be eliminated.
 - **Appoint new Commissioners** who will focus on this updated mission.
 - **Prioritize protection of public health, safety and the environment as a precondition to permitting oil and gas development.**
 - Create an oversight committee to **periodically review and evaluate the performance of the COGCC** to ensure that it is adequately meeting its mission.
 - **Suspend further oil and gas permitting** until the above is achieved.
 - **Increase oil and gas operations setbacks to 2500'** - or to a distance that is in line with the growing body of public health studies and firefighters' recommendations to reduce health and safety risks, and give cities and counties the ability to create stronger protections or bans if they wish.

We appreciate your previous action to protect communities from fracking and address climate change, including your goal of 100% renewable energy by 2040. You can build upon the leadership and innovation now happening in a growing number Colorado communities that are committed to a rapid transition to renewable energy. We ask for a swift response to this urgent call for bold, responsible leadership for Colorado.

Signed,

Please add your name, organization and/or business (if authorized) by signing here.

350 Colorado
350 Boulder County
350 Colorado Springs
350 Denver Metro
350 Central Colorado
350 Northern Colorado
350 Roaring Fork
350 Colorado Action
Aaron H. Sanchez & Associates, LLC
Abacus Inspection Service
Abraham Paiss and Assoc.
ActivateCO
Acupuncture Boulder LLC
Adams County Communities for Drilling Accountability Now (ACCDAN)
Affian Solutions, Inc.
American Indian Movement of Colorado
Apiary Studio LLC
ARISE Music Festival
Artists By Nature
Art Parts Creative Reuse Center
Arvadans for Progressive Action
Battlement Concerned Citizens
Be the Change - USA
Benko Photographics
BOCO Gear
Boulder.Earth
Boulder Valley Voices, LLC
The Bridge Studio
Broomfield Moms Active Community
CAM Solar Inc
Carve Deeper Content
Catholic Divestment Network, Regis University
Catholic Network
Center for Biological Diversity
Center Management Group LLC
Citizens Climate Lobby, Durango Chapter
Clean Energy Action
Clear Impact Consulting Group
Climate Reality Project: Denver-Boulder Chapter

The Climate Mobilization - Colorado
Cloudburst Design Studio
Coalition for Better Education, Inc
Colorado Carbon Fund
Colorado Coaching LLC
Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate
Colorado Environmental Advocates
Colorado Food Forest
Colorado Interfaith Power and Light
Colorado League of Women Voters
Colorado Renewable Energy Society, Boulder Chapter
Colorado Renewable Energy Society, Jeffco Chapter
Colorado Rising
Community for Sustainable Energy
Compassionate Sleep Solutions
Crestone Baca Resiliency
Custom Quality Construction/ Theaters LLC
Deep Green Design
Delta Dental
Denver Counseling and Art Therapy
Desert Ecosystems Analysis and Restoration
Desert Raven Design
Disability Systems, Inc.
Dusk Art, Music and Herbs
Earth Guardians
Earth Vision Institute
Eco-Justice Ministries
Equilibrium
Elvi Design
Emerson Stone
Energy and Environment Initiative
Energy Matters
Estes Valley Clean Energy Coalition
Evolve to Love, LLC
Faith and Spiritual Leaders for Prop 112
Food & Water Watch
Forest Song Educational Services
Fort Collins Community Action Network
Fort Collins Sustainability Group
Forward Concepts, LLC
Four Winds American Indian Council
Frack Free Boulder
Frack Free Colorado

Front Range Residents for Environment, Safety, and Health
Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies
Grandmaloutunes.com
Grand Valley Citizens Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Grand Junction Broadband
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Roaring Fork Broadband
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Northern San Juan Chapter/Ridgway
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Northwest Colorado Chapter
GreenFaith Colorado
HaberVision.com
Harlequin's Gardens Sustainable Nursery and Garden Center
Health professionals for Prop 112
Heatherwood, Boulder County DON'T FRACK US! COALITION
High Altitude Permaculture
Hold Our Ground Boulder County
HumaNature Architecture, LLC
Hunter Construction Corporation
Independent Power Systems, Inc
Inland Ocean Coalition
Innovation Sales Rocky Mtns
InterTran Energy Consulting
Keep Colorado Green
KRM Properties LLC
LaJoyia Farm
The League of Women Voters Arapahoe/Douglas
Light Works of Steamboat
Live to Zero LLC
Living Arts Foundation
Lone Tree Antiques and Fine Art
Mags Cheyenne
Magic Brush Arts
The MetGroup, LLC
MSD Resources Inc.
Music Makers
Mothers Out Front
Naropa Sustainability Council
Natural Habitat Adventures
Nelson Financial Conservancy
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
North Range Concerned Citizens
Northwest Builders LLC
Nibi Rocky Mountain LLC

Our Children's Trust - Colorado
Organizing For Action
Organizing for Action-Grand Junction
Parallel Arts
Parker Indivisible
Parkin Financial LLC
PeakChange Inc
Peak Performance Roling, LLC
Phoenix, Colorado's Trans Community Choir
Precision Impressions LLC
Progressive Democrats of America, Denver Chapter
ProgressNow Colorado
The Question Alliance
QuestionFracking.org
Radiant Rhythms Inc.
Renewables Now Loveland
Right Use of Power Institute
Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Inc., Site Specific Advisory Board
Rocky Mountain Neighborhood Conservancy
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center
Rollingearth.org
Roots of Wellness
RWH Ventures Inc.
Sandys Natural Solutions
Save EPA
SDCS, Inc.
Shambhala Meditation Center
Sierra Club, Uncompaghe Group
Sisters of St. Francis (Denver, Colorado)
Slow Food Western Slope
Solar Power Financial
Solar Professional Services, LLC
Sovereignty First
Spirit of the Sun
Student Union of Naropa (SUN)
Suckla Farms
SunSpirit Retreat
Sustainable Action Consulting PBC
Sustainable Supply LLC
Sycamore Productions and Consulting LLC
Tadpole Press
Tek Innovations LLC
TCAssociates

Teachers for Prop 112
Therapyworks, LLC
Tiredhouse BNB
TLEC Ltd.
Together Against Neighborhood Drilling
Transition Fort Collins
TSHCamp, LLCH
Twin Fish Enterprises, LLC
Urban Dogg Broomfield
Urban Play Studio LLC
Venbo Media
Victory Gardens
Wall of Women Colorado
Wapatanga Gifts
Web of Life Products LLC
Weld Air and Water
Western Colorado Alliance
What the Frack?! Arapahoe
White River TalkAbouts
WildEarth Guardians
The WILD Foundation
Wild Heart Center, LLC
WileyDesignL LLC
Wind&SolarDenver.org
Winner Psychiatry, PC
XOEarth.org

- + Over 5,000 individuals have signed on so far. The above organizations and businesses represent over 100,000 Coloradans.