

PUBLIC COMMENT BY NEIL RAY PRESIDENT OF THE COLORADO ALLIANCE OF
MINERAL AND ROYALTY OWNERS
BEFORE THE HOUSE HEALTH, INSURANCE, & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2017

HOUSE BILL 17-1256
CONCERNING A CLARIFICATION OF
THE MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM
WHICH CERTAIN OIL AND GAS FACILITIES
MUST BE LOCATED FROM ANY SCHOOL.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

CAMRO, the Colorado Alliance of Mineral and Royalty Owners was established in 2016 with the sole focus of protecting the rights of mineral and royalty owners in Colorado. While the Association name may be new, our membership consists of mineral and royalty owners throughout our State that seek to have their voice heard when decisions of local and State lawmakers directly impact their real property interests.

CAMRO consists of many of the prior members and officers of the Colorado chapter of the National Association of Royalty Owners who have come together based on a recognized need for *specific* Colorado representation to address *specific* impacts to mineral and royalty owners in our State.

In recent years the right of mineral owners to lease and pursue development of their valuable private property has come under significant assault. Local governments have implemented restrictions without regard to the impact on the real property rights of mineral owners, and often in the face of evidence that demonstrates value lost to both private property owners and to the State.

The establishment of setbacks properly evaluated to insure safety and minimize deleterious effects is an important duty of the COGCC which regulates the oil and gas industry. Recent rule making conducted by the COGCC promulgated by the Governor's Task Force resulted in a careful analysis by experts who are well versed in all of the aspects affecting safety, health, and welfare of those who are impacted by oil and gas development. Those experts determined that a 500 foot setback was sufficient from inhabited buildings and with extraordinary caution established that a 1000 foot setback was appropriate from certain other types of inhabited buildings including schools.

Those that would restrict or eliminate oil and gas development have recognized that increasing setbacks significantly reduces the ability to produce. Recently attempts to amend the Colorado constitution with mandatory setbacks would have been successful in eliminating oil and gas development throughout the state. At that time maps produced by the COGCC proved the fact, and in two attempts these issues never made it to the ballot.

What would similar maps of the impact on development of this bill show?

Setback is an issue that should require significant technical support and evidence, it is particularly troubling because the COGCC engaged in extensive rule making on this very issue, considered the technical evidence and came to a resolution that minimizes the effects of development and waste of the resource.

For these reasons, and to protect its member's private property, CAMRO urges the committee not to support this bill.