

# MESA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

## **A RESOLUTION OF MESA COUNTY OPPOSING SENATE BILL 24-159 TO BAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT IN COLORADO**

WHEREAS, Colorado is a major energy-producing state, ranked fourth in the nation for crude oil production and eighth in natural gas production, according to U.S. government data; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is widely recognized as a national leader in developing health, safety and environmental protections; and

WHEREAS, Oil and natural gas development is a critical sector of the Colorado economy, supporting jobs and supplying locally produced and affordable energy to households and businesses across the state; and

WHEREAS, Emissions from industry have declined more than 50 percent in the DJ Basin over the past decade, even while production increased over 45 percent during the same period, according to U.S. government data; and

WHEREAS, Gov. Jared Polis in January 2024 said “On the Greenhouse Gas reduction roadmap, the oil and gas sector is overperforming and delivering more emission reductions than what they were scheduled for, so that’s helping to make up for other sectors that are lagging;” and

WHEREAS, A recent 2023 study prepared by globally renowned accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) found in 2021, the oil and natural gas industry in Colorado supported over 300,000 direct and indirect jobs providing over \$30 billion in total labor income; and

WHEREAS, The study also found the industry generated an additional 1.2 jobs elsewhere in Colorado’s economy for each direct job; and

WHEREAS, According to the same study, oil and natural gas development in Colorado supports more than \$48 billion in economic activity, equivalent to 11.2 percent of the state’s economy; and

WHEREAS, Oil and natural gas development in Colorado generates over \$1 billion in tax revenue, according to a 2019 study by the University of Colorado’s Leeds School of Business; and

WHEREAS, The loss of Colorado’s energy sector would devastate the state’s economy, cripple state and local budgets, and threaten the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of working families, and

WHEREAS, Proposed legislation to ban oil and natural gas does not support local government control and input; and

WHEREAS, Anti-oil and gas proposals would dramatically increase the cost of doing business in the state of Colorado, creating a hostile business climate for all sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, Environmental activist groups are leading a campaign to ban oil and natural gas development in Colorado, showing a total disregard for the devastating economic impacts they will leave behind if they succeed.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MESA COUNTY THAT:***

Mesa County declares its opposition to Senate Bill 24-159 to ban oil and natural gas development in Colorado.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Bobbie Daniel, Chair

Attest:

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Bobbie Gross, Clerk and Recorder