



Colorado State and Local Regulation of Oil and Gas Operations
Task Force
September 25, 2014

Good afternoon members of the Task Force. On behalf of Colorado's business community I would like to thank you for your time, talent and interest in energy development in our state. My name is Tamra Ward, and I serve as the President and CEO of Colorado Concern, an alliance of more than 100 of the state's top private-sector CEOs and civic leaders who are committed to ensuring a sound economic future for the Centennial State.

I am here today to highlight the critical role Colorado's oil and gas industry plays in our state's economy. According to a recent study by the CU Leeds School of Business, oil and gas production and related industries employ more than 100,000 Coloradans. The average annual wages in the industry are in excess of \$100,000 – providing good paying jobs for our fellow citizens. And, as you know, like each of our incomes, these dollars do not just benefit the individual or their family - they translate into state and local tax revenue for critical public services we all fund – things like education and our safety net programs.

As you begin your work and deliberations we ask that you keep in mind a key principle that is critical to all forms of business in our state – certainty. All industry, including oil and gas, needs to have a clear understanding of the playing field and the rules

of the game. It needs to know what the rules are and why. We believe a comprehensive and consistent approach to oil and gas development and regulation is the best way to ensure that we protect our environment while remaining an inviting place for future energy investment. And, as perhaps you have heard me say before, creating this certainty for the oil and gas industry does not mean we must choose between our economy and our environment. In Colorado, we can have both.

Colorado's business community looks forward to engagement with the Task Force, and to an outcome that ensures our state remains a vibrant place for responsible energy development. Again, thank you for your service.