



HB13-1269

House Transportation and Energy Committee

March 28, 2013

Good morning Chairman Tyler and members of the committee. My name is Tamra Ward and I am the president and CEO of Colorado Concern, an organization comprised of 110 CEOs and business community leaders from across the state. I am here today on behalf of those individuals to share our opposition to *HB13-1269 - Concerning Conflicts of Interest within the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission (Foote-Jones)*.

Colorado Concern believes that our energy industry is critical to our state's future economic success. To paraphrase a quote from the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, "the state's rich energy resource base puts Colorado at the forefront of new energy development for the nation." It is our belief that HB 1269 is misguided; and instead of ensuring we thoughtfully and respectfully embrace the opportunity outlined in that quote, it will unnecessarily delay and disrupt forward-focused efforts by an industry that has long been the backbone of the Centennial State.

Five years ago your colleagues in the General Assembly took the time to recalibrate the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission. They debated the mission and the make-up of the body, and in their wisdom they created an entity that is representative of the spectrum of interested parties and industry experts. HB13-1269 chooses to up-end that effort, without clarity toward the intent for such action.

In business, and in government, individuals with expertise are sought after to bring their knowledge to the table as challenging issues are voiced, debated and resolved. It is how both the free market/private sector system and our democratic/public sector process works. Removing individuals from the Commission who have expertise and knowledge of the energy industry - simply due their background - would be as foolish as removing you from your role as a legislator simply because you understand the legislative process.

Additionally, allow me to reiterate a message I am certain you have heard before. Business craves stability. We seek certainty. We need predictability. When these three items are present we are able to better serve our customers, grow and hire more Coloradans, in turn bringing more tax revenue to the state. Constantly shifting sands in policy or regulation – without an easy to understand rationale – make it difficult to meet those goals, which benefit our state. I am confident we are in agreement that more jobs, sensible regulation and a healthy and vibrant Colorado is our goal. HB 1269 does not lead to that end, and I would respectfully request that you oppose this piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time.