

# Sierra Club Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2015

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## **Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force Failed to Get the Job Done**

DENVER, CO - Gov. John Hickenlooper's Blue Ribbon Oil and Gas Task Force issued recommendations yesterday after five months of meetings. The Task Force was formed in response to the growing concerns over state oil and gas development, particularly fracking. In response to their recommendations, Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter issued the following statement:

"The Governors Blue Ribbon Task Force was tasked with addressing the legitimate concerns of hundreds of thousands of Coloradans fearful of the toxic health, environmental, and property threats posed by an out of control fracking industry. Unfortunately, their recommendations fall far short of the mark. We were hopeful that the final recommendations would begin to address the fears concerning the toxic fracking threat to our state, but there was no relief contained in the recommendations and no path forward to present citizens and local government with needed opportunities to keep these heavy industrial operations away from homes, schools and communities. No relief to the COGCC's rubber stamping of any and all permit applications, disregarding of citizen complaints, and disregarding of its own official goal to 'prevent and mitigate adverse impacts to public health, safety, welfare, and the environment'," said Harv Teitelbaum of the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter.

"The Task Force failed to listen to citizens, local elected officials and countless others who spoke out at their meetings across the state, submitted letters and comments sharing their stories and told of the continued impacts to the health, environment and quality of life in communities where fracking is taking place. The Sierra Club will continue to stand with these communities. We will continue to join them in raising our voices until actions are taken to keep our state safe from toxic fracking and move Colorado away from dirty and destructive fossil fuels, toward a far brighter green energy future."

For more information on the Sierra Club's efforts to protect communities from harmful oil and gas operations, go to <http://content.sierraclub.org/naturalgas> and <http://rmc.sierraclub.org>.

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### About The Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization with more than 2.4 million members and supporters nationwide. In addition to creating opportunities for people of all ages, levels and locations to have meaningful outdoor experiences, the Sierra Club works to safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying and litigation. For more information, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org>, or <http://rmc.sierraclub.org>.



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