



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

COLORADO LANDOWNER'S PROTECTION ACT

January 20, 2009

When I look back to the 2007 General Session and fighting to protect the property rights of land owners on the Western Slope, I never imagined families' in House District 19 would have to deal with the same surface rights issues as our neighbors in Rifle and Durango. It was an honor to cast the deciding vote in support of The Colorado Landowner's Protection Act (CLPA) in the House Agriculture Committee to protect landowners' rights and ensure landowners are treated fairly. The CLPA enacted in 2007 is one of the most powerful laws in the nation in terms of protecting landowners and the environment.

As I roll the clock forward to January 20, 2009, families in eastern and southern El Paso County are concerned that Oil & Gas Companies will violate their surface rights, negatively affect their water quality and property values. These serious issues are addressed on a regular basis in the House Agriculture Committee and as a member of the committee I remain committed to protecting your property rights, water quality and property values during this time of increased oil & gas exploration and production.

The CLPA requires oil & gas companies:

- Consider the right of a landowner to use the surface of the land;
- Minimize intrusion upon and damage to the land;
- Use alternative means of operation to prevent impacts;
- Failing to minimize their intrusion upon the surface gives a landowner a cause of action(lawsuit).

It is important to stress that SURFACE OWNERS should obtain legal advice from qualified and experienced attorneys before entering into a contract with an oil & gas operator, or an oil & gas company. The Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) is responsible for oil & gas permits, oversight of the permits, enforcement of the regulations and can be reached at <http://cogcc.state.co.us> and 303-894-2100. The Oil & Gas Accountability Project of Earthworks will assist you in understanding your surface rights and can be reached at www.ogap.org and 970-259-3353 in

Durango, Colorado. Two organizations that are available to help you understand your rights and options!

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