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Statement from Dan Haley, President & CEO, Colorado Oil & Gas Association regarding Thornton Lawsuit

Today the Colorado Oil and Gas Association (COGA) filed a lawsuit, in partnership with the American Petroleum Institute (API), to challenge the City of Thornton's new oil and gas regulations.

Thornton's City Council passed illegal energy regulations in August after an extremely limited stakeholder process. COGA and other willing contributors were given little to no opportunity to offer feedback on the proposed rules. Still, to avoid litigation, we submitted multiple letters articulating serious legal concerns with Thornton's proposed regulations, particularly regarding operational preemption. Those concerns were ignored, making it necessary to challenge Thornton's regulations in court.

Active drilling along Colorado's Front Range has been ongoing for more than a century, as we have one of the most prolific – and most regulated – natural resource basins in the country. As Colorado communities grow and expand, it is important to keep in mind where our natural resources exist, the value development provides our economy and our national security, and the respect we must have for individual property rights on the surface and below. Working together with these factors in mind would improve the likelihood for broad stakeholder success, and limit the likelihood for expensive litigation funded on the backs of taxpayers.

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About COGA:

Founded in 1984, the Colorado Oil & Gas Association's (COGA) mission is to foster and promote the beneficial, efficient, responsible and environmentally sound development, production and use of Colorado oil and natural gas. COGA is a nationally recognized trade association that aggressively promotes the expansion of Rocky Mountain natural gas markets, supply, and transportation infrastructure through its growing and diverse membership. For more information, please visit coga.org or visit us on Twitter [@ColoradoOilGas](https://twitter.com/ColoradoOilGas).