CITIZENS SUPPORTING PROPERTY RIGHTS

PO Box 95 Hayden, CO 81639

August 27, 2012

Routt County Board of County Commissioners P.O. Box 773598 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Dear Routt County Board of County Commissioners,

Citizens Supporting Property Rights. This is the name that now collectively represents the land and mineral owners of Routt County who do not see the oil and gas industry as our enemies. Nor do we see them as our friends. Rather, we see the oil and gas industry as our business partners. Like any other business relationship, we believe they deserve fairness, respect and clarity while we hold them to the highest possible standards. We are a group of landowners, farmers and ranchers who own land and mineral rights in Routt County and are establishing this group to ensure their responsible development. We have a reasonable right to responsibly develop minerals owned beneath our property.

In an age where the family farmer and rancher see ever increasing financial challenges to providing for our families and maintaining our way of life through the generations, we believe the valuable minerals beneath our lands have potential to complement the priceless treasures that exist above. Indeed, revenues from responsible, planned mineral extraction will provide royalties that will in some cases eliminate the necessity of subdivision in order to preserve our farms and ranches. Most importantly, we have property rights in our minerals vested from the property taxes we have paid; some families have paid the taxes on these mineral properties for over 100 years.

We have patiently watched a process unfold that has devolved from deliberate and pragmatic to disorderly and political. CSPR does not infer that any of our elected officials are motivated by anything other than protecting the health and safety of Routt County's Citizens. But we believe that hyperbole and hysteria from certain segments of the community have overtaken diligence, thoughtfulness and fairness.

Farmers and ranchers are culturally patient and polite. Our relative silence is the result of respect for our neighbors and the regulatory process. Now, as other interest groups attempt to restrict, or totally prohibit, oil and gas development in our county and other local jurisdictions, we are coming together to guarantee that our rights are protected and our voices are heard in these decisions in Routt County. As of now, we believe patience has run its course and what was reservation now calls for action.

In the coming months and years we will be advocating and communicating to you our thoughts and position that:

- 1. Responsible energy development can be a part of a stronger local tax base that diversifies our regional economy
- 2. Routt County's energy development will be placed in the hands of our region's best stewards of the land, farmers and ranchers
- 3. Preserving large acre ranches can be achieved through mineral operating revenues that reduce the necessity of subdivision
- 4. Mineral rights are property rights. Organizations that helped to fund the proposed moratorium and other obstruction efforts are to the direct and measurable determinant of our legal and valid property rights. We'll work tirelessly to ensure that county and state officials are reminded of the rights vested in minerals we've been taxed on for over 100 years

Respectfulness, clarity and persistence will be the tenants of our advocacy. And as we work with our industry partners, we will provide you an alternative view from the relatively narrow perspective taken by the community to date.

Thank you for your openness to hearing and responding to an alternate, empirical and fact-based view of Routt County's mineral history and future.

Sincerely,

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