



**PRESS RELEASE**

Colorado Department of Law  
Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

Erin Lamb  
Colorado Attorney General's Office  
720-508-6554  
Erin.lamb@coag.gov

**ATTORNEY GENERAL CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN COMMENTS ON COLORADO  
SUPREME COURT HYDRAULIC FRACTURING RULINGS**

DENVER- Today, the Colorado Supreme Court invalidated two voter-approved hydraulic fracturing bans enacted by the cities of Longmont and Fort Collins. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was a party to the Longmont case, which involved a permanent ban, and was represented by attorneys in the Office of the Attorney General. The State was not a party to the Fort Collins case, which involved a five-year moratorium.

“As the Supreme Court recognized today, Colorado has ‘a strong interest in the uniform regulation’ of oil and gas operations, and local attempts to ban hydraulic fracturing undermine the interests of the State as a whole,” said Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman. “The State has always balanced the need to protect our environment with the desire to encourage robust economic development. Sadly, I fear today’s ruling will not end this divisive debate and instead some activists will continue to push anti-development initiatives undermining the State’s record of local cooperation on these policy issues.”

The Supreme Court held that both state and local governments have an interest in the regulation of oil and gas operations, and that local prohibitions conflict with comprehensive state regulations. The Court explained that State law furthers Colorado’s “interest in the efficient and responsible development of oil and gas resources” and its “strong interest in the uniform regulation of fracking.”

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