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COGA Statement on Anti-Oil and Gas Measures Falling Short of Signatures Needed for Ballot

DENVER (August 29, 2016) – The Colorado Secretary of State’s office announced today that activists and out-of-state special interest groups failed to submit enough signatures for Initiatives 75 and 78 to qualify for the November ballot. Dan Haley, President and CEO of the Colorado Oil & Gas Association, issued the following statement:

“The cycle of constant campaigning and political uncertainty is over. Coloradans have sent a clear message that they don’t want to resolve these complex issues at the ballot box. The good news is that after this long and unnecessary battle, our state emerges as the winner.

Property owners no longer have to worry about losing their constitutionally protected rights. Local and state governments will continue to get severance and other tax funding for schools, parks, libraries and roads. And working families across the state are protected from the consequences of driving a vital industry out of state. Industry, and Colorado’s business community, finally will now be able to enjoy some of the certainty needed to operate.

That sound you hear is the state of Colorado breathing a collective sigh of relief.

The oil and gas industry has had a long and proud history in Colorado, and we’re excited about its future. We remain committed to meeting all stakeholders at the table who have questions and concerns about development to find balanced energy solutions for our state. That’s the Colorado way.”

Initiative 75 was deceptively billed as a “local control” initiative that would have resulted in a patchwork of regulations across the state that would have given communities the

ability to ban fracking and made it very difficult to operate in others. Initiative 78 would have imposed a 2,500-foot setback that would have put 95 percent of land in the top five oil-and-gas-producing counties in Colorado off limits for new drilling. (LaPlata – 99.6 percent; Rio Blanco – 99.2 percent; Garfield – 98.9 percent; Las Animas – 96.3 percent; and Weld – 85 percent).

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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.