

"The Story Group is producing the best investigative journalism in the state on oil and gas issues."

Susan Greene, editor, The Colorado Independent

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR REPORTING ON OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

Since the Colorado Supreme Court decision last May that prohibited local communities from regulating oil and gas development, the industry has been on a tear, drilling in residential neighborhoods from Greeley to Broomfield and beyond. Residents in dozens of effected communities are in a panic.

On December 13, Boulder County Commissioners extended the moratorium on drilling until May 2017 and are developing the most restrictive drilling regulations on the Front Range, setting up a battle with the oil and gas industry and state regulators that could define community control over drilling throughout Colorado. Our *Boulder Weekly* story on forced pooling helped citizens bring this issue before the Broomfield City Council in January. For the last five months, [The Story Group \(TSG\)](#) has been reporting on Front Range communities' struggles to deal with an industry that has few barriers anymore. **No one else is reporting these stories and they are vitally important to the health and welfare of the entire Front Range.**

The stakes are high. The Front Range is currently out of attainment for ozone according to the EPA, and oil and gas contributes 50% of the ozone-creating emissions. Wells next to homes and schools are health and safety hazards. With over **50,000** producing wells in Weld and Adams counties alone, and more on the way, this is a serious issue for all of us.

TSG is publishing stories and videos in two Front Range publications, [The Colorado Independent](#) and the [Boulder Weekly](#). Unfortunately, funding for this crucial investigative reporting is limited, not only at independent publications, but across the media landscape. As freelance, independent journalists, TSG must raise funds from individual donors and foundations in order to continue producing in-depth investigative stories.

TSG is committed to reporting on oil and gas impacts to people who live, work, and raise their children on the Front Range. The growing influence of the oil and gas industry in Colorado, combined with the new administration's plan to increase drilling, adds an urgency to our work to keep the public informed. Our goal is to raise \$40,000, to fund our 2017 work. **If you believe that this industry needs watchdog reporting, please support our efforts through our website donation page:**

Donations come through our 501c3, [Conservation Ink](#), and are tax deductible. Donate through our website or by check made out to "Conservation Ink" at the address below.

Thank you, Daniel Glick & Ted Wood/The Story Group

Testimonial

"America is facing a journalism crisis, which means we are facing a democratic crisis. Newspapers and other serious news outlets have been cut to the bone, making it nearly impossible for them to provide the kind of explanatory and investigative journalism that every democracy needs to maintain an informed citizenry. We need look no further than the last election cycle to see the diminished state of the news media. The increasing dissemination of "fake news" on social media outlets is a poor and dangerous replacement for experienced journalists on the ground. That's why The Story Group is so vital. Having experienced, nationally recognized journalists doing in-depth, long-form reporting on the most complicated and important issues of our day — in many cases the very issues that are at the core of our ongoing political and cultural transformation — is a priceless commodity. We will continue to bring The Story Group's excellent articles and analysis to our readers as often as possible. It's like adding editorial staff without the expense, and the quality of the work is as good as it gets. We benefit as a news organization, and more importantly our readers benefit from our relationship with The Story Group. It's a great model for sustaining quality journalism in this critical time of need."

Joel Dyer
Editor
Boulder Weekly

Links to Front Range oil and gas stories by The Story Group

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/160359/decline-to-sign-initiative-75-initiative-78>

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/160601/the-making-of-a-fractivist-initiative-75-78-decline-to-sign-fracking>

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/161846/fractured-teas-tea-shut-down-regulation-cogcc-fracking>

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/162589/greeley-residents-lawsuit-cogcc>

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/162050/fractured-triple-creek-extraction-oil-and-gas>

<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/162718/fracking-colorado-forced-pooling>

<http://www.boulderweekly.com/news/forced-pooling-is-not-mandatory-swim-practice/>