



2012 GUIDELINES ON ENERGY

Background:

1. Meeting the increased demand for energy by wisely developing resources is critical to the continued growth of the economy, fiscal health of our community, and our overall national security. Western Colorado contains a significant portion of the nation's future energy resources and stands to greatly benefit from its utilization through the intricate balance of energy development and environmental impact mitigation.
2. Colorado and Western Colorado can help our nation meet its growing demand for energy while reducing our dependency on foreign oil through an enhanced strategic balance of energy options derived from coal, natural gas, petroleum products, nuclear power and renewable resources such as wind, solar and biomass technology. With an abundant supply of coal, natural gas, uranium, oil reserves, oil shale reserves, solar energy and biomass in the region, Western Colorado has the potential to be a sustainable long term energy hub. This lowers the country's dependence on foreign energy sources. As such, the energy industry is a primary driver of economic growth and sustainability for Mesa County.
3. Federal mineral lease payments and severance tax were created to mitigate local impact of energy development on communities and pay for regulatory agencies.

The Chamber Supports:

1. The development and delivery of technical training and workforce readiness programs through Western Colorado Community College and other post secondary training programs in the community for the energy industry.
2. The continued funding and development of educational and research and development efforts of state supported institutions to create energy technologies and efficiencies.
3. Public education about the energy industry and its impact on our local economy.
4. Energy industry activities that protect our environment and promote good corporate citizenship.
5. The responsible development of Colorado's energy resources, including natural and renewable energy, using the best available technology.

6. A policy of distributing severance taxes and mineral lease payments that gives priority to communities impacted by energy development.
7. Recognizing the rights of both surface and subsurface owners in the regulatory and legislative environments.
8. Research and development of local energy research facilities.
9. Local participation in the development of state and federal energy policies and activities.
10. Market based incentives and educational efforts that motivate businesses to utilize conservation practices that reduce the use of conventional energy resources in their businesses.
11. A market based approach that encourages utilization of all traditional and non-traditional energy sources to meet our increased demand for energy while helping us strive toward energy independence as a nation.

The Chamber Opposes:

1. Energy policies that are not based on sound science and economic principles.
2. The used of energy impact funds for the purposes other than energy related mitigation measures.
3. Regulatory interference and oversight that does not have a statutory basis thereby dictating policy rather than enforcing it.
4. Cap and trade which will drastically increase energy costs that will not only result in higher utility bills for citizens but will also be reflected in higher costs for every manufactured item produced in this country. Such a measure will put businesses in the United States at a competitive disadvantage in a global economy.