



## Laramie County Commissioners Deny Cheyenne Landowners' Petition for Local Regulation

By: [Samuel R. Yemington](#)

The Laramie County, Wyoming Commissioners voted unanimously on June 16, 2015 to deny a request by landowners for local regulation of the oil and gas industry. The Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition – a vocal organization for rural property owners and affiliate member of the Powder River Basin Resource Council - presented the commission with a sweeping resolution governing numerous aspects of oil and gas exploration and development in Laramie County. County Attorney Mark Voss recommended the commission consider the request as a petition for rulemaking in order to comply with statutory procedural requirements.

Half a dozen landowners spoke in favor of the resolution, arguing generally that the State of Wyoming and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) inadequately protect their property values, quality of life, and public health.

County Attorney Voss – while sympathizing with the landowners' frustrations – advised the Commissioners to vote against the proposal, saying the state has exclusive rights to regulate oil and gas operations, and any attempt to control operations locally would inevitably lead to lawsuits from both the state and industry. Wyoming Statute Section 18-5-201, the statute authorizing county land use regulation, provides that “no zoning resolution or plan shall prevent any use or occupancy reasonably necessary to the extraction or production of the mineral resources in or under any lands subject thereto.” Voss encouraged the landowners to communicate their concerns to the state legislature.

Despite garnering little support, the resolution evidences the growing anti-industry sentiment in and around Cheyenne, Wyoming and the push back against the WOGCC's recently adopted 500' setback rule that many surface owners in Laramie County view as a failure.

For further information regarding the landowners' petition or the WOGCC, please contact [Samuel R. Yemington](#) or [James Parrot](#).