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September 17, 2013

Matt Lepore, Director
Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Director Lepore:

In the aftermath of the recent Front Range flooding event, many constituents have contacted me about oil and gas facilities that have been overwhelmed with floodwater and are now leaking near homes and farms. Estimates suggest that up to 1,000 wells may be impacted in northeastern Colorado, and I am concerned about possible environmental contamination in areas around flooded oil and gas operations.

Floodwaters contaminated with sewage, hazardous materials, and uncontained hydraulic fracturing fluids and oil and gas will likely cause a major public health issue in affected areas. In light of the serious conditions on the ground, the industry, at a minimum, must disclose all chemicals that may be contaminating soil and groundwater in the area around wells that are leaking fluids to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission so public health officials and remediation workers can respond appropriately.

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission should deploy workers to assess the situation as soon as the conditions are safe. In addition, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission should call in additional field inspectors and reclamation specialists and other temporary help from other states or the federal government. Please let me know if I am able to assist the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to resolve this ongoing contamination issue.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis
Representative

cc: Mike King, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

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