

**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. La Plata County 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 La Plata County, specifically, 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, and renewable resources such as wind, solar and biomass technology. With an abundant supply of coal, natural gas, and solar energy, La Plata County Colorado has the potential to be a sustainable long term energy hub. The energy industry is a primary driver of economic growth, property taxes and sustainability for La Plata 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 Center programs through Southwest Pueblo Community College and Fort Lewis College for educational programs in the community for the energy industry.
2. Public education about the energy industry and its impact on our local economy.
3. Energy industry activities that protect the environment and promote good corporate citizenship.
4. A policy of distributing severance taxes and mineral lease payments that gives priority to communities impacted by energy development.
5. Recognizing the rights of both surface and subsurface owners in the regulatory and legislative environments.
6. Local participation in the development of state and federal energy policies and activities.
7. Market based incentives and educational efforts that motivate businesses to utilize conservation practices that reduce the use of conventional energy resources in their businesses.

**The Chamber Opposes:**

1. Energy policies that are not based on sound science and economic principles.
2. The use of energy impact funds for the purposes other than energy related mitigation measures.
3. The distribution of energy impact funds to cities and counties that do not allow energy development.