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## Oil, gas rules prompt volley

**Eleven lawmakers send a letter to Gov. Ritter, saying the proposals are "unacceptable."**

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*The Denver Post*

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A group of lawmakers sent Gov. Bill Ritter a blistering letter Tuesday calling proposed rules for oil and gas production "unacceptable" and beyond what the legislature intended.

"We are gravely concerned that the draft rules will have a punitive impact on industry at a time when already high energy prices are pinching Colorado's working families like never before," said the letter, signed by nine Republicans and two Democrats.

The letter, circulated this week by Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Yuma, and Sen. Josh Penry, R-Grand Junction, said the proposed new rules developed by the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, along with the Department of Public Health and Environment and the Division of Wildlife, "create unnecessary layers of bureaucracy."

"They are so far off base with the legislative intent that. . . We simply need to start over," Gardner said.

But Carrie Doyle, the executive director of Colorado Conservation Voters, said the rule-making process

is still young.

She said the new rules are crucial to protect Colorado's environment for decades to come, but that doesn't mean they have to come at the expense of the industry. "We're not saying it's one or the other," she said.

The legislature passed two bills last year to tighten regulation of the oil and gas industry. One revamped the oil and gas commission, requiring that it have more experts on wildlife and environmental concerns. The other required oil and gas companies to minimize the impact of exploration and drilling.

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