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**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB1124**

Representative Foote,

Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew J. O'Connor.

Today, I represent myself, my wife and children.

I live in the City of Lafayette and I am a resident of Boulder County.

I am testifying today in strong opposition to HB1124.

I am opposed to HB1124 for the following reasons:

1. The proposed bill is an unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment which states:  
*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances;*
2. The proposed bill is an unconstitutional attempt to legislatively favor the oil and gas industry by enabling them to seek financial compensation from local communities that enact moratoriums against fracking thereby punishing local communities and conferring an unfair, competitive advantage over all other industries in Colorado;

3. The proposed bill is purely political, unconstitutional, anti-local community and anti-protest legislation dressed up as an obstruction bill. You can't put lipstick on a pig and HB1124 is simply an attempt by Representative Buck to force local communities that oppose fracking to underwrite the oil and gas industry and to financially intimidate local communities that oppose fracking; and
4. Why should Colorado taxpayers subsidize the oil and gas industry, the most profitable industry in the world? In fact, the oil and gas industry in Colorado must pay their fair share by paying a severance tax in line with surrounding States and the ad valorem tax deduction must be eliminated.

For the aforementioned reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee Vote "No" on HB1124.

Thank you.

ANDREW J. O'CONNOR