

Toolkit: How to Write Effective Letters to the Editor (LTEs):

Did you know that the 'opinions' section of the newspaper is one of the most-read sections? Help push back on industry misinformation, increase awareness about the need to phase out new permits and ensure operators pay for clean up. Share your story, express your concerns - we need diverse voices to help write LTEs in local newspapers to amplify community opinions and generate real momentum for lawmakers to pass stronger oil and gas laws.

Writing LTEs is easy and open to all levels of writers. Read through the toolkit below, then if you would like help proofreading or fact-checking your letter, [email us](#) and our team will work with you to publish informative, fact-based pieces in local media outlets. Thanks for your efforts!

Here's How To Write an LTE:

- **Step 1:** Use our template below so you don't leave anything out. Then add your comments using our suggested [talking points](#) (below) as a starting point - but modify the words to be in your own voice. Read through our [writing tips](#) to help get your letter published.
- **Step 2:** Would you like help writing, proofreading or fact-checking? [Email us](#).
- **Step 3:** Pick some media outlet targets [from the list below](#) and begin submitting. You can submit your letter to multiple media targets.
- **Step 4:** Check back in to see if your letter got published (you can do a google search for your name and the name of the media outlet). [Let us know](#) if your letter gets published!
- **Step 5:** Keep at it! Regardless of whether your letter is published or not, send another one in next month with a new slant on an oil and gas topic. For inspiration and the latest oil and gas news [click here](#).

General Writing Tips:

- Always include:
 - Date
 - A clear, catchy title
 - Your content
 - Full name
 - Full home address
 - Day and evening phone numbers
- The newspaper only wants your phone number in case they need to contact you. They only print your name and city.
- Every newspaper has a maximum length (word count) for letters to the editor ([see limits here](#)). Do not exceed that length. (your word processing software will have a tool for counting words)

LTE TEMPLATE:

RE: Letter to the Editor

Date:

TITLE: (You get to suggest a catchy title. The editor may or may not use it.)

To the Editor:

[content of your letter goes here]
[this is where you count the words]

● **Your Name:**
● **Full address:**
● **Daytime phone:**
● **Evening phone:**

- Editors especially like letters about events or articles. [Check here](#) for recent oil and gas news and do a google search of the news media for other oil and gas articles so you can refer to an article if there is one (put the name of the event or article, the date the article was published at the top of your letter).
 - It is also OK to write about fracking in general and explain how it impacts you, your family/friends, your community, your home value, your health, your quality of life, the climate, etc. Personal stories make it real! [You can also use our talking points here.](#)
 - Contact the newspaper to make sure they received your letter and ask if they plan to print your letter. Or do a google search with your name (set a google alert with your name) to track when your name appears online. Be patient, it can take a week or more to see your letter published.
 - Usually, if your letter does get published, you will have to wait 30 days before submitting another one to that same paper.
 - Even if your LTE does not get published, please know that your effort is not wasted. Your letter shows the paper that people are interested in the issue, helps steer reporting decisions, helps get other supportive letters published, and will continue to shift the narrative on this issue - this is a fight that will be ongoing!
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Talking Points about Fracking:

The oil and gas industry has already drilled over 120,000 wells in Colorado and has nearly 50,000 active wells. Oil and gas corporations export around 40% of the oil and 75% of the gas they extract in Colorado, so Coloradans get the pollution while corporations get the profit. There is no need for permitting new wells. Existing wells will continue producing more fossil fuels than Colorado needs for decades.

The oil and gas industry is the #1 source of Colorado's severe air quality problem and carbon pollution that exacerbates the climate crisis. Climate change has been declared the #1 global threat to human health by 200 medical journals. Climate change disproportionately impacts people of color and lower income communities.

The United Nations has declared the right to a clean and healthful environment to be a human right. It has also reported that an end to new oil and gas development is essential for a pathway to keeping global temperature rise under 1.5°C. We simply must stop extracting fossil fuels in order to have any chance at avoiding the worst effects of world-wide climate catastrophe.

We are already seeing the effects of oil and gas production on climate change. The combustion of fossil fuels has caused more wildfires, extreme weather, lethal heat, floods, more intense hurricanes etc. We simply can't ignore this reality any longer. The decisions that regulators, lawmakers, and judges are making now doom future generations of humans. We simply must make the tough, responsible decisions to phase out fossil fuel extraction and promote renewables instead.

Despite all the recent oil and gas rules in Colorado, that industry has not become substantially cleaner and less emitting. The latest ozone SIP (State Implementation Plan) included all of the recent oil and gas regulations, yet showed that Colorado is still unable to meet the EPA health standards for air quality. The oil and gas industry emits more NOx and VOC air pollution than any other sector even under the new regulations, and projections in the SIP show that even with the new regulations, the oil and gas emissions are projected to rise by 2026.

Lawmakers and ECMC regulators often proclaim that Colorado has “some of the strongest oil and gas regulations in the US,” as justification for legislative inaction and a business-as-usual approach. But oil and gas companies routinely violate these “strong” laws, regulators make excuses, and the public pays the price. Here are just a few recent examples:

- [In November 2024](#), we learned that two oil and gas consulting firms in Colorado had falsified soil and water testing results from at least 350 oil spill sites and closed drilling locations for the last 3 years. Consultants submitted fake data on toxins and cancer causing chemicals on behalf of their parent companies - a clear argument against the current framework of trusting the O&G industry to “self-police.”
- [In May 2025](#), a whistleblower report showed that 61% of oil and gas wells in Colorado were out of compliance with a 2022 Colorado law requiring operators to report all chemicals used in underground operations - yet the ECMC regulators had not detected or punished this fraud. Since that report, we have learned that many banned chemicals (including PFAS) were used in fracking operations and purposefully covered up as “trade secrets.”

Many of Colorado’s wells go years without being inspected by ECMC and repeat violators are not adequately punished or fined. As an example, 41% of wells in Weld County have not been inspected in over 4 years - so spills and leaks go undiscovered and unfixed. We call on the state to create a comprehensive mapping and mobile phone notification system for spills and air quality alerts so Coloradans know what is happening in their neighborhoods. We also call on the ECMC to inspect each well in Colorado at least once per year, including wells that have been “plugged and abandoned.” Currently, wells are no longer regulated after they are plugged, but they do not stop polluting.

Despite the oil and gas laws that legislators and regulators celebrate as being so protective, Coloradans are still gravely impacted by spills, explosions and toxic air quality. Like every year (2025 was no exception), Colorado’s communities were contaminated by a number of [wells that exploded, spewing toxic chemicals for miles and requiring years-long cleanup](#). In Colorado there were 1730 spills in 2024 and already by October 2025, 1762 new spills have occurred. In Weld County alone, there were a record 255 spills reported in the single month of April 2025 - which works out to an average of 6 spills per day! Clearly the regulations are not working and oil and gas companies are not incentivized to take adequate precautions. If the fracking industry can’t operate safely, they should not be allowed to do business in Colorado.

The science is clear: people living, working or going to school near oil and gas operations have higher risks of asthma, cancer, developmental problems, premature death, heart disease, neurological and respiratory problems... with children being especially vulnerable. Here are some 2025 facts:

- 25% of Colorado schools are within a mile or less of an O&G well

- 92% of Weld County schools have well/s within a mile
- Half of Weld County schools have 37 or more wells within a mile
- 70% of Weld County schools have suffered a spill a mile or less away in the last 10 years

Fracking projects are too often sited too close to homes, schools, hospitals, farms, streams, and agricultural irrigation waterways. These are the absolute wrong places for toxic industrial projects with all their accompanying air pollution, leaks, explosions, truck traffic, pipelines and noise. The proximity of oil wells and flowlines next to and under drinking water reservoirs, superfund sites, and landfills set us up for a catastrophe and are examples of terrible places to further disturb the earth by drilling and injecting high pressure chemicals and huge volumes of water.

We call on Colorado State lawmakers to finally pass an updated version of SB24-159 in the next session. Although this bill failed in 2024, it is crucial that we stop the fracking industry's relentless expansion and make polluters pay the cost of plugging and remediation. This bill would phase out the approval of new oil and gas permits by 2030, prioritizing permit reductions in disproportionately impacted communities, and hold oil and gas operators responsible for the cleanup costs. It would not affect production from current wells which would continue operating into 2050 or beyond. The bill would also help support oil and gas workers and communities impacted by the transition away from oil & gas expansion.

MEDIA TARGETS FOR LTEs:

NOTE: Newspapers and media sources marked with a gray highlight indicate the largest circulation (and/or key county, key demographic)

Alamosa Valley Courier – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Arvada Press – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Aspen Daily News – 350 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Aspen Times – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Aurora Sentinel – 250 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Boulder – Note: You can submit the same letter at the same time to all three. Important: Submit as separate emails to each - i.e. no cc / bcc.

- **The Boulder Daily Camera** – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#)
- **Boulder Weekly** – 300 words. Submit to letters@boulderweekly.com.
- **Colorado Daily** – 300 words. Submit to letters@coloradodaily.com

Brighton Blade – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Broomfield Enterprise – 500 words. Submit to: opinion@broomfieldenterprise.com

Castle Rock News-Press – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Centennial Citizen – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Colorado Independent - 700 words. Submit to: tips@coloradoindependent.com

Colorado Springs Papers – Note: You can submit the same letter at the same time to both.

Important: Submit as separate emails to each - i.e. no cc / bcc.

- **Colorado Springs Gazette** – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#)
- **Colorado Springs Independent** – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Colorado Sun – Submit to: opinion@coloradosun.com and see guidelines [here](#)

Delta County Independent (Delta, Olathe, Montrose, Paonia, Cedaredge) – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Denver Metro / Front Range: Westword – 200 words. Submit to: opinion@westword.com

Denver Post – 250 words (despite what their website says) – Submit to openforum@denverpost.com
OR use this [online form](#)

Douglas County News-Press – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Durango, Cortez – Note: You can submit the same letter at the same time to all three. Important: Submit as separate emails to each - i.e. no cc / bcc.

- **Durango Herald – 250 words.** Submit via online form [here](#) OR letters@durangoherald.com
- **Durango Telegraph** – 250 words. Submit to telegraph@durangotelegraph.com
- **Cortez Journal** – 250 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Elbert County News – 250 words. Submit here: letters@coloradocommunitymedia.com

Fort Collins Coloradoan – The Coloradoan ceased production of a weekly, traditional opinion section. Instead you can write no more than 600 words, in the first-person, accompanied by the individual author's name, contact information and a .jpg photo, sent to opinion@coloradoan.com

Fort Lupton Press – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Fort Morgan Times – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Glenwood Springs Post Independent – 350 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Golden Transcript – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Grand Junction Sentinel – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#) OR letters@gjsentinel.com .

Greeley Tribune – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#) OR letters@greeleytribune.com

Gunnison Country Times – 300 words. Submit to: editor@gunnisontimes.com

Highlands Ranch Herald – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Jeffco Transcript – 400 words. Submit using online form [here](#)

Lafayette - Colorado Hometown Weekly – 300 words. Submit to:

opinion@coloradohometownweekly.com

La Vox Colorado – Spanish/Bilingual. 300 words. Submit in English (OK) or Spanish (if possible).

Via email here: news@lavozeolorado.com

Littleton Independent – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Longmont Times Call – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#).

Loveland Reporter Herald – 300 words. Submit via form [here](#).

Montrose Daily Press – 400 words. Submit via [this from](#)

Northglenn-Thornton Sentinel – 400 words. Submit via this form [here](#)

Pagosa Daily Post 300 words. Submit to: pagosadailypost@gmail.com

(Paonia Area) High Country News – 250 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Parker Chronicle – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Pueblo Chieftain – 250 words. Submit to: zhillstrom@gannett.com

Rio Blanco Herald Times – 250 words. Submit online [here](#) OR to: editor@theheraldtimes.com

Sopris Sun – 250 words. Submit to news@soprissun.com

Steamboat Springs, Craig - Note: You can submit the same letter at the same time to both, as long as the letter is at or less than 300 words.

- **Steamboat Pilot** – 250 words. Submit via online form [here](#)
- **Craig Daily Press** – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Summit Daily News – 300 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Telluride Daily Planet – 250 words. Submit to: editor@telluridenews.com

Vail Daily – 300 words. Submit to: letters@vaildaily.com

Westminster Window – 400 words. Submit via online form [here](#)

Westword – 200 words. Submit to: opinion@westword.com