

## HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENT

Second Reading

BY REPRESENTATIVE Boesenecker

1 Amend the Energy and Environment Committee Report, dated March 23,  
2 2023, page 1, strike line 3 and substitute:

3 **""SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general  
4 assembly finds and determines that:

5 (a) Since the year 2000, Colorado has experienced a drought that,  
6 according to the Colorado state university's Colorado water institute, is  
7 the most severe drought in the southwestern United States since the year  
8 800;

9 (b) The drought has affected every part of Colorado, and  
10 agricultural operations throughout the state have been negatively  
11 impacted due to reduced water supply for irrigation;

12 (c) In the years 2020 and 2021, the historically dry conditions led  
13 to the four most destructive wildfires in recorded state history; and

14 (d) Compared to twentieth century levels, the flow of the  
15 Colorado river has declined twenty percent since the year 2000.

16 (2) The general assembly further finds and determines that:

17 (a) One way to conserve water is by increasing the recycling of  
18 produced water in oil and gas operations;

19 (b) To reduce the use of fresh water and increase the recycling of  
20 produced water in oil and gas operations, the Colorado oil and gas  
21 conservation commission, referred to in this section as the "commission",  
22 should ensure that it collects robust data regarding the existing use,  
23 recycling, and disposal of water in oil and gas operations;

24 (c) New rules adopted by the commission will also assist in the  
25 reduction of fresh water use and concomitant increase in produced water  
26 recycling; and

27 (d) A produced water consortium, consisting of individuals with  
28 expertise in produced water, environmental impacts, environmental  
29 justice concerns, and community perspectives, would be helpful for  
30 sorting through the issues related to water use in oil and gas operations,  
31 with the primary goal of the consortium being to reduce the use of fresh  
32 water and increase the recycling of produced water in oil and gas  
33 operations.

34 (3) Therefore, the general assembly declares that:

35 (a) The collection of oil and gas operations' water use data is  
36 intended to assist stakeholders, the commission, and the public to  
37 determine the best solutions for reducing the use of fresh water and  
38 increasing the recycling of produced water in oil and gas operations;

39 (b) The commission should adopt new rules to require a rapid and  
40 substantial reduction of the use of fresh water and the increase in the

- 1 recycling of produced water in oil and gas operations; and  
2 (c) To assist the commission and the public, a produced water  
3 consortium should be appointed and should proceed in a collaborative  
4 manner, with efforts to achieve consensus among consortium members  
5 whenever possible. The consortium is intended to be an informational  
6 resource for the commission and the public and is not intended to be a  
7 party participant in any commission rule-making proceedings.  
8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 34-60-134 and".  
9 Renumber succeeding section accordingly.

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