



PEER

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY • ROCKY MOUNTAIN

President Mark Kennedy
Office of the President
University of Colorado
1800 Grant Street, Suite 800
Denver, CO 80203
Via email: officeofthepresident@cu.edu

May 5, 2020

Dear President Kennedy,

On April 7, 2020, after 25 years of work for the University of Colorado, world-renowned atmospheric expert, Research Scientist and Associate Research Professor, Dr. Detlev Helmig was abruptly fired. The University also forced Dr. Helmig to end his National Science Foundation projects and climate research at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), blocked his e-mails, and took all of his group's websites down, including those reporting ongoing air quality monitoring data to the public.

The state of Colorado relies on self-reporting by the oil industry to measure the pollution. The reporting is periodic, never continuous, and rarely actual, and still based on 30-year old formulas developed by EPA for reporting air pollution from oil operations in a different age.

Dr. Helmig had responded to the calls from the communities of Longmont, Boulder, and Broomfield seeking high quality and defensible air quality data for evaluating estimates on reported industry emissions. What he found was that the oil and gas development along the entire northern Front Range is a significant contributor to the state's historical air quality problems. Many citizens in the state believe that his science in service of the people is the root cause of his firing.

Most importantly to the citizens living in the increasingly polluted Front-Range, Dr. Helmig's work has become the major source of independent air quality information for people living in the fracking fields of Colorado. His work has produced publicly available data available nowhere else, and by preventing him from continuing his

public research, the University is taking away the important science that is needed to combat oil and gas special interest groups.

If Dr. Helmig's work is terminated, how will this important research continue?

Furthermore, Dr. Helmig's years of academically peer reviewed work, which has directed public policy in Colorado, is now under attack. Despite the University of Colorado's usual practice of not commenting publicly on personnel matters, immediately after his firing, the University was quoted in an Oil and Gas trade paper, Western Wire, drawing into question the University's allegiances to private interests.

We the undersigned 39 groups and 162 individuals ask that the University move quickly to publicly reaffirm the undisputable quality and implications of Dr. Helmig's research. We also request that the University let us know its plans on how the valuable public research on Colorado's air quality and climate will continue.

Sincerely,

Chandra Rosenthal
Rocky Mountain Director

Phillip Doe
Environmental Director, Be The Change
Former head of the Reclamation Law Administration for the US Bureau of Reclamation

350 North Colorado	Earthworks
350Colorado	Environmental Integrity Project
Adams County Communities for Drilling	Estes Valley Clean Energy Coalition
Accountability Now	Fort Collins Partners in Climate Action
Americans of Conscience	Fort Collins Sustainability Group
Be The Change – Colorado	Fractivist
Broomfield CAN	FracTracker Alliance
Broomfield Concerned: A Coalition of	Larimer Alliance
Neighborhoods	North Range Concerned Citizens
Broomfield Moms Active Community	Northern Colorado Community Rights
Clean Energy Action	Network
Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate	Our Health, Our Future, Our Longmont
Community for Sustainable Energy	

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Colorado
Pipeline Safety Coalition
Protect Our Loveland
Renewables Now Loveland
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
South Park Coalition
Stand With Our St. Vrain Creek
Sustainable Resilient Longmont
The Climate Mobilization - Colorado
The Lookout Alliance
Union of Concerned Scientists
Wall of Women
Weld Air and Water
WildEarth Guardians
Wind and Solar Denver

Individuals

Former Governor Richard Lamm
Russ Schnell, PhD
Christiaan van Woudenberg, Trustee, Town of Erie, and Editor-in-Chief, Erie Protectors
Libby Comeaux, formerly Colorado State Personnel Board
Laurie Anderson, Broomfield City Councilmember, acting on her own behalf
Diana Bray, Psy.D., Candidate for the U.S. Senate
Susan M. Osborne, AICP, Former mayor, Boulder, Colorado
Galina Nicoll (Siergiejczyk), PhD, Candidate for Colorado State Senate, SD-23
Heidi Henkel, Broomfield City Councilmember, acting on her own behalf

Wendell G. Bradley, PhD, Retired Professor of Physics

Wendy Highby, Professor, University of Northern Colorado

Virginia H. Black, PhD, Retired Associate Professor, NYU School of Medicine

Rutilio Martinez, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Northern Colorado

Judith Blackburn, EdD, Professor Emerita, Northern Kentucky University

Ira Chernus, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado Department of Religious Studies

Gordon MacAlpine, Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics, University of Michigan, and Emeritus Zilker Distinguished Professor of Physics, Astronomy, and Climate Science, Trinity University

Donald M. Henricks, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Biochemistry, Clemson University

Caroline Conzelman, PhD, Senior Instructor, Global Studies Academic Program, International Affairs Program, University of Colorado - Boulder

Charles Steinberg, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center

Anthony R. Ingraffea, PhD, PE, Dwight C. Baum Professor of Engineering Emeritus and Weiss Presidential Teaching Fellow at Cornell University; Dist. Member, American Society of Civil Engineers

K.K. DuVivier, Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Abigail Driscoll, Longmont, Colorado

Adrian Sweeney, Castle Rock, Colorado

Anne B. Butterfield
Barbara L. Whinery, PhD, Greeley, Colorado
Barbara Mills-Bria
Barbara Vasquez, Cowdrey, Colorado
Bill Wilson, Longmont, Colorado
Brad Thacker
Britton Monts, Longmont, Colorado
Brook Lenker
Carl B. Erickson, Greeley, Colorado
Carol Heinkel, Windsor, Colorado
Carol Teal, Longmont, Colorado
Celeste Dowiat, MA, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Charles Turner, Greeley, Colorado
Cheryl Beseler, PhD
Chris Hoffman Boulder, Colorado
Cory D. Carroll, MD, Fort Collins, Colorado
Dan Blonder
Dan Greenberg, Boulder, Colorado
Daniel Ziskin, PhD
David M. Kline, PhD, Boulder, Colorado
Deb Bjork, PhD, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Devon Reynolds, Boulder, Colorado
Diane West, Windsor, Colorado
Dianne Thiel, Denver, Colorado
Dick Mallot
Donald A. Perl
Donn Kuntz, Lyons, Colorado
Doug Belscher
Doug Henderson, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Dr. Shirley Smithson, Greeley, Colorado
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E.L. Hudetz, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Elena M. Lopez, PhD
Elisabeth Gick, Boulder, Colorado
Evan Green, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Frances Feinerman
Fred Kirsch, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Gail M. Montoya, Windsor, Colorado
Gayla Maxwell Martinez, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Gaythia Weis, Longmont, Colorado
Gene R. Reetz, PhD, Denver, Colorado
Georgia Locker, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Gina B Hardin, Denver, CO
Ginny Jordan, Boulder County, Colorado
Gregg Lauer, Boulder, CO
Harry Gregory, Louisville, Colorado
Harv Teitelbaum, Boulder, Colorado
J.D. Ruybal, Windsor, Colorado
Jan Peterson, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Janice Lynne, Fort Collins, Colorado
Jeff Davidson, Longmont, Colorado
Jeffrey Gross, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Jenna Parker, Fort Collins, Colorado
Jessica Buchalter, Longmont, CO
Jill Monts, Longmont, Colorado
Jim Morris, Boulder, Colorado

Joan Stephenson, Ft. Collins, Colorado
John Gascoyne, Fort Collins, Colorado
John Spina, Boulder, Colorado
Joni Teter
Judy Lubow, Longmont, Colorado
Julie Boyle, Lyons, Colorado
Julie Lauer, Boulder, Colorado
Jutta Seeger, Greeley, Colorado
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Karen Artell, Ft. Collins, Colorado
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Karen Speed, BSMT, ASCP, Windsor, Colorado
Kathleen Nimetz, Windsor, Colorado
Kathy Partridge, Longmont, Colorado
Keith Ela, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Kevin Henry, Ft. Collins, Colorado
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Lauren Swain, Denver, Colorado
Leland Keller, Longmont, CO
Leslie Glustrom, Boulder, Colorado
Leslie Weise, LLM
Linda Andes-Georges, Longmont, Colorado
Luc Nadeau, Longmont, Colorado
Lyle Ruppert, Longmont, Colorado
Lynda Bidlake, Loveland, Colorado
Lynn Israel, Boulder, Colorado
Margaret Lewis, Greeley, Colorado

Margo King and John Steiner, Boulder, Colorado
Maria Orms
Marie Venner
Marc Alston, Denver, CO
Marilyn Stone
Mark Duggan
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Mary Headley, Longmont, Colorado
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Megan Thorburn, Larimer County, Colorado
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Pamela Behan, Ft. Collins, Colorado
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Robert Winkler, Greeley, Colorado
Rose Lew
Rosie Piller, Boulder, Colorado

Russell Gorham, Windsor, Colorado
Sam Allen, Highlands Ranch, Colorado
Sandy Nozick, Greeley, Colorado
Sandy Toland, BFA
Shane Davis
Shari Malloy, Longmont, Colorado
Sharon J. Carlisle, Loveland, Colorado
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Susan Permut, MA, Monument, Colorado
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Ted Hollman, Windsor, Colorado
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Tricia Olson, Boulder County, Colorado
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Wade Lockhart, Crestone, Colorado
Wes Wilson