

March 22, 2011

Ms. Helen Hankins
State Director, Colorado State Office
Bureau of Land Management
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Dear State Director Hankins:

Given my new position as the Colorado Tourism Office Director, I would like to provide my comments for the proposed temporary work of art, *Over The River*, and respectfully submit this letter in full support of the artists' original proposal. I am enthusiastic about the value, both economically and culturally, this project will bring to Colorado.

Tourism is Colorado's primary economic driver and this is a truly unique opportunity for the state. As the Director of the Colorado Tourism Office, I am certain this project will bring our state significant economic activity and exposure throughout the project's installation, exhibition and removal. *Over The River* will bring revenue to the state in the form of construction jobs filled by local residents, increased tourist spending at local businesses and generation of additional local and state tax revenues – all of which will come to Colorado at no expense to the taxpayer.

Although the economics of the project are substantial, the cultural significance of this project cannot be overlooked. Christo and the late Jeanne-Claude have a worldwide following and visitors from around the world will flock to Colorado to be a part of this project. This project will bring new visitors to a culturally rich area and likely increase the numbers of return visitors for years to come.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Christo and listen to his vision for *Over The River*. As he explained his plans for the project, I was struck by his willingness to work towards a solution. It was apparent that Christo has been incredibly willing to work with the local communities and government officials to make his vision a reality. Christo is working to find a balance between environmental issues and community concerns while maintaining the integrity of his artistic vision – and he has a wonderfully successful track record of balancing such demands.

I ardently support *Over The River* and what it means for Colorado. This project is a wonderful gift to Colorado and long after the panels and materials have been removed, it will continue to leave a legacy that will last for generations to come.

If I can provide any assistance to or additional input, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Al White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Al White

Director, Colorado Tourism Office