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To whom it may concern:

As an advocate of arts-based economic development and the lasting impact it has on cultural tourism in New Mexico, I am writing in strong support of *Over The River*, the next installation by internationally renowned artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude. This temporary work of art will feature 5.9 miles of silvery, translucent fabric panels suspended in sections high above a 40-mile stretch of the Arkansas River.

Although *Over The River* is proposed for the Arkansas River Valley in Colorado between Salida and Cañon City, its proximity to Chama, Taos and Santa Fe provides an opportunity to spotlight the arts community of northern New Mexico.

The transformative power of the arts will be exemplified by *Over The River*. All of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's works have the unique ability to temporarily shift the way we perceive the world around us. *Over The River* will be displayed for only two-weeks, but the artistic significance of this once-in-a-lifetime work of art will enrich our area economically and culturally for years to come as the project lives on in the collective imagination and memory of the world.

Based on Christo and Jeanne-Claude's impressive track record and their commitment to the environment, I am confident that upon removal no trace of the exhibition will remain and the valley will be returned to its previous state. This is why the artists requested an Environmental Impact Statement before installation of *Over The River* begins, to proactively identify ways to mitigate or completely avoid impacts to the environment and local communities.

While art lovers around the world will be inspired by *Over The River*, we in northern New Mexico are uniquely positioned to showcase our already culturally and artistically rich region. This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire southwest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Loie Fecteau'.

Loie Fecteau

Executive Director

New Mexico Arts Commission and New Mexico Arts division

New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs