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DENVER ART MUSEUM

I am writing in strong support of *Over The River*, the temporary work of art proposed by artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude for Colorado's Arkansas River between Salida and Canon City. This exciting project involves suspending 5.9 miles of translucent fabric panels high above eight separate areas along a 40-mile stretch of the river. Not only will *Over The River* provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all who visit, but it will also help to advance Colorado's rapidly growing prominence in the art world – something that is of great importance to the Denver Art Museum. This will be an artistic event unlike anything we've ever seen or will likely ever see again.

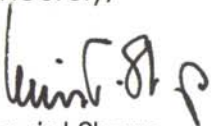
In the past, Christo and Jeanne-Claude's temporary works of art have drawn visitors from around the world, putting the spotlight on their hosting communities. Years after they have been removed and the materials recycled, these artworks leave a lasting legacy that continues to move and inspire. With all of Colorado's recent and soon-to-come artistic enhancements – such as the new Hamilton wing of the Denver Art Museum, the new Museum of Contemporary Art building and the approaching opening of the Clifford Still Museum – *Over The River* will help introduce the world to all the cultural assets that our region has to offer.

Over The River is also anticipated to have substantial economic benefits for the state. During its installation, exhibition and removal, it is expected to be one of the largest visitor attractions in Colorado, resulting in a projected \$195.5 million flowing into the state's economy. All economic benefits of *Over The River* would occur without public subsidy or taxpayer support, and the artists do not accept viewing fees, sponsorships or outside investments. *Over The River* will be a gift to Colorado and all the visitors who come to experience it for themselves.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude have decided to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for *Over The River*, and they are committed to implementing an impressive list of mitigation measures. They will be working closely with nearby communities, local governments, the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Department of Transportation and other agencies to avoid or minimize as much as possible the impacts associated with *Over The River*.

Over The River is a tremendous opportunity for our state. It is my strong desire that it becomes a reality.

Sincerely,



Lewis I Sharp
Frederick and Jan Mayer Director
Denver Art Museum