

Geo. R. Turner

February 7, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

From: Geo. R. Turner
1514 Vine St.
Cañon City, CO 81212

My name is George Turner. Until one year ago, I was the executive director of the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce and had held that position since 1991. It was through that association that I came to know Christo and Jeanne-Claude when they first visited Cañon City and introduced themselves at a dinner meeting which they hosted. I must admit that I approached the meeting with some apprehension, but that apprehension was soon allayed, and I became intrigued and excited about their proposed Over the River project for our area.

The more I learned about the artists, their art and their proposed endeavor, the stronger advocate I became. Christo and Jeanne-Claude have been using fabric as the medium of their art since the 1950's. Without exception, they are most sensitive to the natural surroundings of their art projects, and of the residents of the areas where they are constructed. Their research, planning and negotiations with local residents and organizations of governance are exhaustive; and the artists pay for all costs. Even the time spent by government agencies in studying and eventually permitting the project are compensated by the artists.

A good example of their concern for the environment was their Surrounded Islands project in Biscayne Bay, Florida, where eleven islands were surrounded in fabric. Prior to constructing their art, it was necessary for them to remove, and dispose of tons and tons of trash which had been allowed to accumulate on, and around, the islands. Christo and Jeanne-Claude always leave the areas of their art in better condition than they were found.

As always with their art projects, Over the River will exist physically for only a brief period of time – about two weeks. Then it will be dismantled and the fabric will be recycled. There will be no lingering, physical evidence on or near the river that it ever happened. It will, however, live on forever through photographs, sketches, videos and in the memories of those fortunate enough to view it. Those fortunate enough to have witnessed previous Christo and Jeanne-Claude art are always enthralled and say they will never forget the experience. Over the River will effect us the same.

Cañon City and the surrounding area is exceedingly fortunate to have been selected by these world renowned, respected and admired artists for this major art project. I can only thank them and wish them the very best.

Sincerely,
/s/ Geo. R. Turner