

ROARING FORK AND COLORADO RIVER VALLEY MAYORS

November 17, 2006

Dear Governor Elect Ritter,

As Mayors and City Council Presidents of Western Slope communities, we want to congratulate you on your election as the next Governor of Colorado. This is an exciting time for the State of Colorado and we look forward to working with you to achieve the *Colorado Promise*.

To this end, we want to encourage you and your transition team to consider a number of issues and characteristics when selecting members of your cabinet, particularly the Directors for the Department of Local Affairs, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Transportation.

As you know the Western Slope of Colorado is one of fastest growing areas of the state. It is currently facing enormous development pressures from oil and gas development as well as residential and commercial development. As Mayors, we have first-hand experience with the impacts this rapid development is having on people, communities, and our public infrastructure (i.e., roads, air quality, housing affordability, and human services).

For Western Slope communities and the State of Colorado to fully benefit from this growth and development, there are a number of critical issues that need the attention of your administration and the Directors for the Department of Local Affairs, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Transportation. Some of these issues include:

- Allocating energy impact funds so more funding stays in areas of greatest impact;
- Setting and enforcing air quality and water quality standards;
- Including headwater communities in all state water discussions ;
- Developing funding strategies to finance affordable housing as well as transportation improvements (trails, transit, and roads); and,
- Increasing local input into the regulation of oil and gas development.

To help address these and other issues, we, the mayors of several Western Slope communities recommend that you consider the following characteristics and experience in your choice of Directors for the Department of Local Affairs, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Transportation. We believe these directors should have experience:

- Working with Western Slope communities and issues;
- Serving as an elected official or town / county manger or regional manager;
- Fostering communication between state and local governments;
- Employing innovative "out-of-the-box" thinking while working with practical realities; and,
- Creating "win-win" collaborative solutions.

Although, you have chosen wisely in your transition team members, because of the scale of the issues facing our region, we want to encourage you to add a Western Slope perspective to your team either in the form of a representative or by talking with us during this transition period.

We look forward to further discussing with you the challenges and opportunities before many Western Slope communities and how state departments can be partners in creating solutions that benefit Western Slope communities as well as all Colorado residents.

We wish you success as you transition toward your role as Governor of Colorado.

Sincerely,



Helen Klanderud,
Mayor, City of Aspen



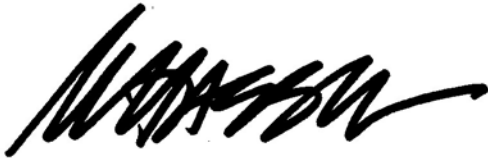
Frank Breslin
Mayor, Town of New Castle



Leroy Duroux
Mayor, Town of Basalt



Keith Lambert
Mayor, City of Rifle



Michael Hassig
Mayor, Town of Carbondale



Roy McClung
Mayor, Town of Parachute



Donald Cramer
Mayor, Town of De Beque



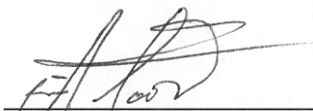
Dave Moore
Mayor, Town of Silt



Bruce Christensen
Mayor City of Glenwood Springs



Doug Mercatoris
Mayor, Town of Snowmass Village



Jim Doody
Mayor, City of Grand Junction



Ken Brenner
President of City Council
City of Steamboat Springs