

STATE OF
COLORADO

Uebelher - CDOT, Jennifer <jennifer.uebelher@state.co.us>

4 messages

Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 1:10 PM

To: Eula Adams <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>, kbracketcdistrict5@gmail.com, commissioner.gifford@state.co.us, commissioner.hall@state.co.us, commissioner.stuart@state.co.us, commissioner.thiebaut@state.co.us, vasqueztdistrict6@gmail.com, commissioner.zink@state.co.us, district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co, judhollingsworth@townoflakecity.co, michellemartin@townoflakecity.co, daveroberts@townoflakecity.co, doughamel@townoflakecity.co, jessekendall@townoflakecity.co, lindapayne@townoflakecity.co, carolinemitchell@townoflakecity.co, jenniferrightsell@townoflakecity.co

All-

I would strongly object to Ms. [REDACTED] "barging in" on this topic. Neither she, nor the Sierra Club in general, have any business weighing in on a topic they basically have no legitimate knowledge regarding the dynamics involved here, nor does the Pilot 149 Project in any way help or hurt them financially. I am extremely annoyed when outsiders try to convince people designated w/making decisions that effect this project, that they have a proverbial "dog in the hunt". Simply, they do NOT! Her allegations of damage to the ecosystems is laughable at best. OHV's will still be present on the Alpine Loop. The "ecosystem" she is trying to allege being impacted is simply a state highway that sees a lot more traffic than OHV's emitting far more carbon emissions than the OHV's come close to. She veers off track to try to support her case, which she simply does not make here. Certainly the Pilot Project makes the Loop journey easier but failure to approve it does not make the OHV's go away. However, failure to approve it will create once again nightmarish parking conditions and add MORE vehicles into the mix than would exist without the Project.

Ms. [REDACTED] also attacks the OHV's from a safety standpoint and that they "are documented as 'unsafe' ...". As a retired Arizona State Trooper (as is my wife), we dealt with OHV's on Arizona state highways for several years prior to our retirement in April of 2002. We had numerous said machines operating on US 89 north of Flagstaff, which was part of our area of patrol. I'm talking about machines being operated at speeds of up to 60 mph (which was legal) and not a single time did we either hear of, or responded to an incident involving an OHV. They simply were not an issue. Yet the hue and cry here is that "the gates of OHV hell" have been opened and doom and gloom. Sorry. Statistics here cannot support that. OHV manufacturers put their "unsafe to operate on pavement" stickers on the machines because their attorneys tell them to.

Will a bad crash involving an OHV happen on our town streets or SR 149? Sure, sooner or later I predict it is bound to happen. But my God, how many crashes do we see involving motorcycles, pickups, cars and SUVs? How many people are involved in crashes on bicycles operating on our state highways? Again, this is another argument that cannot be substantiated. And, with well crafted ordinances by the Town and County our incidents with OHV's OFF of the highway have been dramatically reduced, especially considering the increased volume of traffic we had in 2020.

Let me also point out that my wife and I do not have an OHV that we use to navigate the Alpine Loop or town streets/state highway. We love Lake City, Hinsdale County and the Alpine Loop.

I will be re-joining the Hinsdale County Sheriff's Office as a seasonal part-time Deputy, working 20 hours a week, with a significant focus at enforcing Town/County Ordinances regarding OHV's. As well, as addressing bad driving behavior by all motorized vehicle operators. Let's face it, it is a very distinct minority of operators of any means of transportation that create problems. Please let us avoid taking the "kindergarten" approach at punishing the many because of bad acts by a few.

I would strongly encourage the Committee to once again approve this highly successful Project.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald [REDACTED]

Hinsdale County Retired Sheriff

12 years service

AZ DPS – Highway Patrol Bureau Retired Trooper #2048

28+ years service

*My comments are my own and are not necessarily the views or position of any organization I may be affiliated with.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:51 AM
To: Ron [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: CO149 Pilot Project

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: 'Eula Adams' <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>; 'Gary Beedy' <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>; "kbracketcdistrict5@gmail.com" <kbracketcdistrict5@gmail.com>; "commissioner.gifford@state.co.us" <commissioner.gifford@state.co.us>; "commissioner.hall@state.co.us" <commissioner.hall@state.co.us>; "dot_transp_comm@state.co.us" <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>; "commissioner.stuart@state.co.us" <commissioner.stuart@state.co.us>; "commissioner.thiebaut@state.co.us" <commissioner.thiebaut@state.co.us>; "vasqueztdistrict6@gmail.com" <vasqueztdistrict6@gmail.com>; "commissioner.zink@state.co.us" <commissioner.zink@state.co.us>; "district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us" <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; "district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us" <district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; "district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us" <district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; "administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us" <administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; "brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co" <brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co>; "judhollingsworth@townoflakecity.co" <judhollingsworth@townoflakecity.co>; "michellemartin@townoflakecity.co" <michellemartin@townoflakecity.co>; "daveroberts@townoflakecity.co" <daveroberts@townoflakecity.co>; "doughamel@townoflakecity.co" <doughamel@townoflakecity.co>; "jessekendall@townoflakecity.co" <jessekendall@townoflakecity.co>; "lindapayne@townoflakecity.co" <lindapayne@townoflakecity.co>; "carolinemitchell@townoflakecity.co" <carolinemitchell@townoflakecity.co>; "jenniferrightsell@townoflakecity.co" <jenniferrightsell@townoflakecity.co>

Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021, 09:02:30 PM MST

Subject: CO149 Pilot Project

Dear Transportation Commission, Hinsdale County Commissioners and Town Trustees,

The Colorado Chapter of the Sierra Club is writing to ask you to oppose the CO149 Pilot Project and to request that the Transportation Commission vote “NO” on renewing the CO149 Pilot Project.

Sierra Club’s mission is “to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; and to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environments.” Sierra Club has more than 2.1 million members and supporters nationwide, including more than 80,000 Coloradans. Although we are comprised of a diverse population, the tie that binds us is our commitment to conserving those places, processes and organisms that will sustain our natural heritage with all its biological diversity.

The CO149 Pilot Project threatens the ecosystems upon which human life and wildlife depends. Native species that currently thrive in our mountains, including moose, deer, elk, that tourists revere and hunters seek, all depend on intact, unfragmented, healthy ecosystems for their survival. This CO149 Pilot Project fragments landscapes and thereby threatens the survival of these iconic native species.

Further, with regard to human safety, OHVs are documented as “unsafe” when allowed to operate on paved roads, hard-packed surfaces and highway environments; they are not crash-test certified; they are prone to roll-over and loss-of-control accidents; they do not have highway certified headlights or signaling devices; they endanger public safety and destroy wilderness areas.

The perceived (and unproven) financial benefit of increased OHV tourism is short-lived and will ultimately and soon destroy the very reason why tourists find Hinsdale County so appealing. This type of mechanized tourism is not sustainable for our community, and the perceived tax revenue will not preserve or protect surrounding wilderness areas – the wild areas upon which our way of life depends.

We respectfully ask that you oppose the CO149 Pilot Project. Thank you for your consideration. D

Delia [REDACTED]



*“We can try to kill all that is native,
string it up by its hind legs for all to see,
but spirit howls and wildness endures.”*

-Terry Tempest Williams

Executive Committee Member

Ecologist and Wildlife Chair

Sierra Club, Colorado Chapter

[REDACTED]

Znamenacek - CDOT, Zane <zane.znamenacek@state.co.us>

Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 1:19 PM

To: "Uebelher - CDOT, Jennifer" <jennifer.uebelher@state.co.us>, Michael Goolsby <michael.goolsby@state.co.us>

FYI

Zane Znamenacek, PE
Traffic and Safety Program Manager, CDOT Region 3



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zane.znamenacek@state.co.us | www.codot.gov | www.cotrip.org

222 South 6th Street, Room 100 Grand Junction, CO 81501

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Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 3:20 PM

To: Eula Adams <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>, kbracketcdistrict5@gmail.com, commissioner.gifford@state.co.us, commissioner.hall@state.co.us, commissioner.stuart@state.co.us, commissioner.thiebaut@state.co.us, vasqueztdistrict6@gmail.com, commissioner.zink@state.co.us, district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us, brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co, judhollingsworth@townoflakecity.co, michellemartin@townoflakecity.co, daveroberts@townoflakecity.co, doughamel@townoflakecity.co, jessekendall@townoflakecity.co, lindapayne@townoflakecity.co, carolinemitchell@townoflakecity.co, jenniferrightsell@townoflakecity.co, st8cop@centurytel.net

Dear Transportation Commission, Hinsdale County Commissioners and Town Trustees,

In response to Ronald [REDACTED], I must say that it is a little ironic that a retired Sheriff from Arizona states that I have "no legitimate knowledge...". With specific regard to my knowledge of Hinsdale County and its natural ecosystems, in fact, 10 years ago I spent three months in Hinsdale County conducting biological surveys on public lands for the BLM throughout the County. So, I do know something about the natural landscape and the environment in Hinsdale County.

Further, as an ecologist who has conducted biological surveys across Colorado for more than twenty years, I can attest to the degradation that has occurred to ecosystem health and sustainability from rampant and inappropriate OHV use on our public lands. Although I've only lived in Colorado since 1968, a short time to be sure, but enough time to witness the impacts of inappropriate development.

Even if I didn't have an intimate understanding of Hinsdale County's ecosystems, our public lands belong to all of us, not only to the people that reside in Hinsdale County, or in Colorado for that matter. Our public lands are our Natural Heritage and I believe we all have a responsibility to care for the life of these public lands including especially the ecological processes that sustain these ecosystems and the wildlife and human culture that they support.

Regarding the safety of OHV's, I've merely stated the facts as documented by the transportation safety industry and that can be found at these sites:

- [Off-Highway Vehicles on Roads](#)
- [2020 Analysis of OHV Recalls: Increasing Number of OHVs Pulled from Market due to Safety Concerns](#)

- [Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Fatality Data](#)
- [Off-Highway Vehicle Fatality Data](#)
- [2020 Report of Deaths and Injuries Involving Off-Highway Vehicles with More than Two Wheels](#)
- [Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association position papers](#)
- [ATV Safety Institute resources](#)

Respectfully submitted. D

Delia [Redacted]



*"We can try to kill all that is native,
string it up by its hind legs for all to see,
but spirit howls and wildness endures."*

-Terry Tempest Williams

Executive Committee Member
Ecologist and Wildlife Chair
Sierra Club, Colorado Chapter



Respectfully, Dee

From: Ron [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:10 PM
To: 'Eula Adams' <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>; 'Gary Beedy' <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>; kbracketcdistrict5@gmail.com; commissioner.gifford@state.co.us; commissioner.hall@state.co.us; dot_transp_comm@state.co.us; commissioner.stuart@state.co.us; commissioner.thiebaut@state.co.us; vasqueztcdistrict6@gmail.com; commissioner.zink@state.co.us; district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us; district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us; district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us; administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us; brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co; judhollingsworth@townoflakecity.co; michellemartin@townoflakecity.co; daveroberts@townoflakecity.co; doughamel@townoflakecity.co; jessekendall@townoflakecity.co; lindapayne@townoflakecity.co; carolinemitchell@townoflakecity.co; jenniferrightsell@townoflakecity.co
Subject: Sierra Club's "Barging in"

All-

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Uebelher - CDOT, Jennifer <jennifer.uebelher@state.co.us>

Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 3:41 PM

Cc: Eula Adams <dot_transp_comm@state.co.us>, Kathleen Bracke <kbracketcdistrict5@gmail.com>, Gifford Commissioner - CDOT <commissioner.gifford@state.co.us>, Hall Commissioner - CDOT <commissioner.hall@state.co.us>, Stuart Commissioner - CDOT <commissioner.stuart@state.co.us>, Thiebaut Commissioner - CDOT <commissioner.thiebaut@state.co.us>, Barbara Vasquez <vasqueztdistrict6@gmail.com>, Zink Commissioner - CDOT <commissioner.zink@state.co.us>, "Kristine Borchers (district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us)" <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>, Stan Whinnery <district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>, Susan Thompson <district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>, Jami Scroggins <administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>, brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co, judhollingsworth@townoflakecity.co, michellemartin@townoflakecity.co, daveroberts@townoflakecity.co, doughamel@townoflakecity.co, jessekendall@townoflakecity.co, lindapayne@townoflakecity.co, carolinemitchell@townoflakecity.co, jenniferrightsell@townoflakecity.co, st8cop@centurytel.net

Thank you both for your comments. I will be sure to document the receipt of these and add them to the online repository of comments. The Commission will reviewing this item tomorrow around 2:30 pm with their vote on the resolution occurring on Thursday around 10:20 am. You can access the documents and youtube links here: <https://www.codot.gov/about/transportation-commission/meeting-agenda.html>. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Uebelher
Transportation Commission Liaison
Office of Policy and Government Relations

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