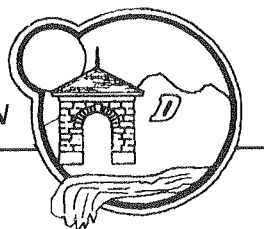


GATEWAY TO ALL SEASON FUN

TOWN OF DEL NORTE

140 SPRUCE STREET
P.O. BOX 249
DEL NORTE, CO 81132



PHONE NO. (719) 657-2708
FAX NO. (719) 657-2035

November 10, 2008

Jim Clare
San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative
3625 U.S. Highway 160W
Monte Vista, CO 81144


Dear Jim,

The Town of Del Norte would like to express our support for and encouragement of the 230-kilovolt transmission line project that is currently being undertaken by the SLVREC and Excel Energy. While we are a small town on the west side of the valley our concerns for all of our citizens are huge. The fact that the current supplies to this Valley are all grouped in one narrow geographic area coming through a forest heavily impacted by the Pine Beetle and that could easily be eliminated by a simple and small forest fire is unsettling to say the least. That small fire could put this entire Valley and its residents into the Stone Age quickly and for a period of time long enough to devastate farms, businesses, and families. People would quite literally have to pack up and leave. The line you are proposing to build to the East over La Veta Pass to Walsenburg would be a life saver in a time of emergency.

Our second reason for support is that green energy is the focus of our State and Federal Governments. Here in the Valley we have some of the best solar capabilities in the nation in addition to some geothermal possibilities. None of this will ever be practical to develop with out a way to get the electricity to the marketplace on the other side of the mountains. This Valley was heavily impacted by the loss of several extraction industries over the last 20 – 30 years. The jobs created by these two industries would bring a boost to the sagging economies of every small town in the Valley. Coupled with the fact that this would lessen our dependence on foreign oil, the benefits of your project just keep mounting up.

In closing, you have our best wishes and complete support on this project because of the obvious safety and economic benefits to the entire Valley.

Sincerely,


Chris Trujillo, Mayor
Town of Del Norte, CO