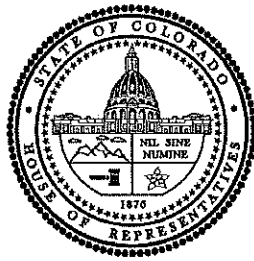


State Representative  
KC BECKER  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue, Room 307  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Office: 303-866-2578  
kbecker.house@state.co.us



SPEAKER-DESIGNATE  
Member:  
Executive Committee of  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Committee

**COLORADO**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

State Capitol  
Denver  
80203

December 18, 2018

Virginia Brannon  
Director  
Division of Reclamation Mining Safety  
1313 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

Director Brannon:

I write today to share my concerns for the proposed Douglas Mountain Ranch Project under review by the Division of Reclamation Mining Safety (DRMS) for a construction materials permit. My district, House District 13, encompasses the land in question, and many of my constituents and residents of Clear Creek County are very concerned about the impact this project will have on the environment, their community and their quality of life.

The proposed site for the project is along the Douglas Mountain Plateau, an incredibly diverse alluvial plain essential to the Clear Creek Watershed and visible from Interstate 70. It is the primary habitat for the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, an iconic figure for Colorado and local communities, which draws tourists to the wildlife viewing area every year. The plateau is an essential migration corridor, breeding ground for large mammals and contains sensitive riparian habitat areas.

The proposed site for this project is far too valuable to the local community and regional ecosystem to be sacrificed for the development of a gravel mine. It is well known that Clear Creek County relies heavily upon the tourism industry. The numerous outdoor recreational opportunities available in the county are some of the most significant driving factors for tourism in the area. This industry will continue to thrive only if we preserve its sensitive wildlife habitat and maintain access to the county's mountainous activities.

The transportation concerns of the I-70 corridor extend to Clear Creek County and this proposed mining project. The applicants expect over 300 diesel trucks transporting gravel every day. Not only is this an enormous burden to the county infrastructure, but also to local residents. Consider the impact this will have on a small community that depends upon the interstate as a main route of transportation. Not only will it increase congestion, but the number of trucks transporting gravel every day will likely impact the area's air quality.

The Douglas Mountain Plateau is the only natural, accessible, and undeveloped alluvial plateau in Clear Creek County. It is a unique geological feature which supports many wildlife species and should be protected. The development of this mining project will create an increase in the regions pollution and the subsequent health issues that arise from that increase, a disruption of migratory patterns among the region's wildlife, and it will impact tourism in the region. These are just a few of the issues I ask you to keep in mind while reviewing the permit application for the Douglas Mountain Ranch Project.

Sincerely,

KC Becker  
Speaker-Designate  
House District 13