

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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June 8, 2011

Ms. Helen Hankins
State Director, Colorado State Office
Bureau of Land Management
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

CO STATE OFFICE
GOVERNOR
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Dear State Director Hankins:

It is our understanding that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed temporary work of art, Over the River, is expected any day. For that reason, I wanted to express the Governor's Office unequivocal support for this unique project.

We have been reassured by Christo that the concerns that have been raised about potential impacts to local communities, wildlife, users of Highway 50, and to other resources will be addressed. We appreciate this commitment, and truly believe this project will be of a significant net benefit to Colorado and Coloradans.

We applaud Christo for his vision, and for his willingness to persevere for the many years it will take to bring this wonderful work of art to the Arkansas River Valley. We are excited about the economic and cultural value that this project will bring to Colorado, and hope it becomes a reality.

Christo and his late wife Jeanne-Claude have a worldwide following, and this project will bring valuable exposure to Colorado's natural beauty for years to come. Tourism is one of Colorado's primary economic drivers, and the benefit of this project to the regional and statewide tourism economies is undeniable. Al White, Colorado's Tourism Director, speaks for all of us when he acknowledged that the Over the River Project will bring revenue to the state in the form of construction jobs filled by local residents, increased tourism spending at local businesses, and generation of additional local and state tax revenues. All of these benefits will inure to Coloradoans without expense to the taxpayer.

We know that you and your staff have spent over two years reviewing this project, and we applaud your thorough and thoughtful work. We are ready to assist you in any way to make this exciting project a reality.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John W. Hickenlooper in cursive script.
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor