



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

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March 4, 2015

To: Members of the Colorado Senate Transportation Committee

REFERENCE: Senate Bill 15-179


The Fremont County Board of Commissioners wants to go on record through the testimony of Pueblo County Commissioner Buffie McFadyen that we support passage of SB 15-179 to have CDOT conduct an economic study of US Highway 50 across southern Colorado from the Kansas border to US 285.

The significance of US Highway 50 as a major east-west corridor to serve commerce across the State of Colorado is too often ignored. One need only witness the impacts of a rock slide that occurs in Big Horn Sheep Canyon west of Cañon City to experience how life and commerce is disrupted.

An economic study would help CDOT define just how much the agricultural industry, the oil & gas sector, and particularly the tourism industry relies on US Highway to connect to the western slope and the mountain counties of Colorado. We believe CDOT and the General Assembly might find it interesting to learn just how many vehicles with Texas license plates use US Highway 50 to connect to resorts like Breckenridge.

We urge the committee's support of this legislation.

Respectfully,


Tim Payne
Commissioner Dist. 1


Debbie Bell
Commissioner Dist. 2


Ed H. Norden, Chairman
Commissioner Dist. 3