

May 9, 2007 Announcement from Telluride Mayor John Pryor

Fellow citizens of the Telluride region, second home-owners and guests, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the historic fundraising efforts both private and public to save the Valley Floor are at long last over.

At 3PM this afternoon, with the consent of the Telluride town council, I authorized the initiation of a \$50.87MM wire transfer to a Court approved escrow account which will fully fund and hold the jury's condemnation award. In so doing, we have taken the final step in the condemnation process necessary to preserve this environmental, cultural and community gem in perpetuity.

What we have here is a coming together of the human spirit in a rare and almost unprecedented manner in our modern society. This success proves unequivocally that when focused on a noble cause, a community can indeed achieve what otherwise might have been described as the impossible. The credit for this success spans generations, states, socio-economic status, race, religion and political orientation.

The efforts of the Valley Floor Preservation Partners have been nothing less than heroic. Jane Hickcox's leadership, character and resolve as a board member and front-line fundraiser helped inspire her team to successfully raise the \$24.5MM in private funds needed to add to the public funds of \$25.5MM to make this happen. Likewise, the dedication of the town councils, Town Manager Frank Bell and Town Attorney Kevin Geiger and indeed all the town staff has truly been remarkable. It was not easy and it was not smooth, but was vitally important and very rewarding to be a part of.

Telluride is and always has been a beacon of hope for visitors and locals alike: Hope that the way we want the world to be is alive somewhere. Hope that we can be a diverse and dynamic community without selling ourselves out. Yes, as a community, we have great challenges in front of us. I am confident, that with this success in land preservation behind us, we can also succeed in other areas. Success breeds success. I believe now that we have learned how to focus and work together we can apply these skills to our future problems and opportunities.

Let us not forget the lessons of this effort. We should now all rejoice together as a greater family. Whatever your position has been on this issue, as your Mayor and as your friend, I ask you, for the sake of our community, to move forward. Envision the future and all of the benefits that this open space will provide. Think of the gigantic bonfire we will light and the dancing in the moonlight we will do once we have prevailed in the final challenge which is now in the hands of our Supreme Court. Think of the fishing, skiing and hiking we will do. We are now indeed even luckier to live here.

In closing I'd like to thank all of you for your patience and trust in your Mayor and in your council, we have been proud to be a part of this effort. Together

with you, the Telluride community we have fought the good fight, we have prevailed.

Mayor John Pryor