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Mosca, CO 81146  
719-206-2839

Good day Commissioner Thomas,

The Valley Roots Food Hub is a 7 year old, statewide local food aggregation and delivery service business rooted in the agricultural powerhouse of the San Luis Valley. Our strength as a food hub and business has been directly a result of the scale and quality of the agriculture that we are immersed.

This means we can operate year-round in produce, meat, dairy, and value-added at a scale and price that can meet the needs of small grocers such as Farm Girl Foods in Castle Rock and the Local in Parker, to large buyers such as the Whole Foods in Castle Rock and Highlands Ranch, to institutions such as Tri Lakes Cares in nearby Monument. We also serve several CSA customers at home. These Douglas County food businesses serve your community with quality local foods in a supply chain that is more resilient and more durable than much of what exists out there. This was proven during the recent unprecedented pandemic situation where we saw the global supply chain network severely disrupted, yet we continued operations without missing a beat, and in fact we grew twofold overnight. And we have yet to even put a dent in the supply of these quality foods that are based in Valley agriculture.

If some of our larger producers have to close down or move elsewhere because of the increased price of doing business, largely due to water prices, limitations in water availability, or lures of selling their water, we will not be able to provide your community with quality local foods, or stay afloat as a business that employs 10 and pays Douglas County sales tax with our CSA customer base.

We are also opening a retail food store and public venue in centrally-located Mosca. As such, we had to go buy water from our local San Luis Valley Water Conservation District at great cost to the point where we would consider acquiring water for a local community business a significant endeavor. It is a tough reality that our own internal water management strategies are belittled by a plan for water exportation out of this geographical ecosystem. We encourage you to let us manage our water on our own for a future of land-based livelihoods and local foods delivered throughout the State.

Have you fully deployed water conservation tactics in your communities? Are you irrigating lawns with the water you have? Do you have low flow plumbing fixtures required by new buildings? Are you requiring drip system and xeriscape landscaping techniques? Highlands Ranch seems to be a community of an irrigated lawn for every house. It would be a shame to know that we are losing our Valley water (in principle or by the acre foot) to uphold far outdated practices for domestic or commercial applications.

Good luck in developing solutions for your water management. We DO NOT support plans for water exportation. Our reasons clearly impact your communities and access to our abundant, affordable, and accessible local food.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nicholas Chambers in blue ink.

Nicholas Chambers  
GM & Chief Fungi

Handwritten signature of Al Stone in blue ink.

Al Stone  
Markets Manager  
& Mycelium Architect

Handwritten signature of Ally Jean Arnold in blue ink.

Ally Jean Arnold  
Director Business Development  
& Grub Guardian