



Delivered in person by Mesa County Commissioner Rose Pugliese

Senate State Affairs Committee

Dear Committee Members;

On behalf of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization of 950 small businesses employing 37,000 people and Industrial Developments, Incorporated (IDI), a sister organization to the Chamber that holds property for economic development projects, I am asking that you support HB19-1062. The bill is really very simple in that it enables the State to consider transferring the State Regional Center property to a local government or institution of higher education. It does not mandate such a transfer.

The Chamber and IDI are supportive of continuing the discussion around utilizing this campus for multiple uses including economic development. The site is located close to a major transportation corridor and has a rail siding adjacent to the property on the north end. It would potentially be possible to have 3 to 5 shovel ready sites available to assist us in helping our existing businesses grow and/or attracting new primary employers.

We are also excited about the possibilities for the site hosting affordable housing and daycare facilities along with a small retail center. The vision of a development relatively close to the city core where residents could literally walk their children to daycare from their homes and then walk to work is unique. Without the opportunity to explore all the options via some flexibility at the state level in terms of disposal of the site it will simply remain a vision.

I am sorry that I was unable to travel to Denver to deliver our support in person. This was the first bill that the Grand Junction Chamber took a position on this legislative session because we see it as so important to developing our economy and our community.

Please vote yes on moving HB19-1062 forward.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Diane Schwenke'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Diane Schwenke
President/CEO