

September 27, 2017

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Helmick,

As our family has previously communicated to you, we have been a stable and respected cattle operation in Larimer County for 77 years. The D Dart Ranch, which is part of the total operation, borders the proposed WOLF II site and will definitely be negatively impacted which as we have said will directly impact our four families and their ability to make a living, if this application is approved. The manner in which we raise and manage our cattle and the devastating consequences of allowing these wolf hybrids on to the adjacent property has been partially explained to you in detail in the previous letters. However, there is one very significant secondary issue that has not been brought to light. Due to the extreme increase in human activity in the area and government regulations, primarily the designation and listing of the Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse as threatened, we have reduced the size of our operation to the level of being close to non-viable. This D Dart pasture provides the necessary resources for 20% of our herd for 4 months, which is a considerable amount of our yearly requirements. With the loss of these resources, it definitely puts the entire operation in jeopardy to remain as a viable functioning family ranch. If this were to happen, the only remaining option is to liquidate, not just the approximately 900 acres from the pasture owned by D Dart Ranch, but the entire holdings of all four families which is in the thousands of acres. These lands all lie within the area designated as the Laramie Plains, which there is a strong movement and support to be preserved as an open space area. Should this land become available for purchase, it is obvious with the huge influx of people to Larimer County and the Northern Front Range that development prices would prevail. We feel this is a very serious issue of secondary impact that requires significant consideration. It isn't just the negative impact on our family and our way of life that we love and enjoy, but how such a detrimental approval could influence the economy and quiet natural area and community.

In reading the Larimer County "Rights to Farm & Ranch Policy" it seems me to be very unethical for the Larimer County Commissioners to approve the WOLF II application, if they abide by their own policy. There were many reasons for the adoption of this policy by the Board of County Commissioners as are stated in the policy. Of all of these reasons that are identified in the policy, these are 2 that very much apply to this WOLF II application, that state the board shall attempt to "1) Conserve, enhance and encourage ranching, farming and all manner of agriculture activities and operations within and throughout Larimer County where appropriate. 2) Minimize potential conflicts between agriculture and non-agriculture users of land in the County". These two issues could not apply to anything anymore directly than they do to these concerns we have presented.

WOLF II is definitely not agriculture and appears to us as being a tourist based venture and is definitely a threat to our cattle operation and the tranquility and quiet way of life in the surrounding area. There is a way of life and a heritage that is at stake with the conflicting proposed venture and we would humbly but strongly encourage and support that the County Commissioners deny this application. We do this not just for the sake of maintaining the viability of our livelihood and passionate way of life, because you have to love this way of life in order to continue doing what you enjoy, but for the economy of the community and maintaining the quiet and peaceful rural atmosphere that now exists but is in unnecessary jeopardy.

There is a Colorado State Statute that states "It is the declared policy of the State of Colorado to conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production of food and other agricultural products."

We have complete faith that you as County Commissioners will abide by your duties and obligation to protect us as citizens of the County and our property rights by denying the WOLF II Special Review Application.

We as part of the ranching community want to thank you for your service and dedication to all of the citizens of Larimer County and also thank you for allowing us to present our concerns to the proposed venture.

Sincerely,

Ed Hansen

