



Letter of Support for the Colorado Milling Company, LLC

1 message

Silvia Pettem <pettem@earthlink.net>

Sat, Jun 22, 2019 at 3:38 PM

To: amy.eschberger@state.co.us, Michael.Cunningham@state.co.us

To Amy Eschberger and Michael Cunningham,

Please pass on my attached Letter of Support to the MLRB.

Thank you,
Silvia Pettem



LetterOfSupport_CMC.pdf

527K

Silvia Pettem
439 Ranch Road, Ward CO 80481
June 22, 2019

Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board
1313 Sherman Street — Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203

re: Letter of Support for the Colorado Milling Company, LLC

Dear Board Members:

As a historical researcher and writer based in Boulder County, I'm offering my support for the Colorado Milling Company, LLC's mill in Gold Hill, Colorado. In 1982, after writing a book on Boulder County mining history, I was contacted by members of the Steen family during the Gold Hill Mill's initial permitting process to conduct historical research on the mines in the Gold Hill Mining District.

I was hired, at that time, by CMC's predecessor, the Gold Hill Mining Company, see "research projects" on <http://www.silviapettem.com/biography.html>. Since then, I have continued mining history research on Boulder County mines including those in Ward, Wallstreet, Caribou, Jamestown, Balarat and Eldora, as well several in Lake and Fremont counties, and other parts of the state.

Although my research and writing has spread to other topics, I'm currently a longtime member (and speaker) at the Mining History Association, which holds annual conferences all over the country. Even so, I've developed a strong appreciation throughout the past thirty-five years for Colorado's mining history. The CMC's mill is located in the Gold Hill Mining District (formerly "Mountain District #1, Nebraska Territory"), where the Colorado gold rush began. Many people today have forgotten, or never knew, that mining brought people to Colorado, built its economy, and sustained them during the Great Depression.

I have no financial interest in the CMC, but I would like to see the company to be allowed to continue and encouraged to succeed in the tradition of the many other small mining companies that seem to be falling by the wayside in Colorado due, in part, to excessive environmental restrictions.

In reading of your mission statement, the key words, to me, are "environment" and "balance," i.e. ... *to protect the public, miners and the **environment** during current mining operations, restore abandoned mines, and to ensure that all mined land is reclaimed to beneficial use. The division is committed to **balance** the need for mineral resource production with protection of the public, environment and Colorado's natural resources.*

Isn't responsible underground mining and mineral processing a better way to preserve the environment than selling out to developers of mountain subdivisions? And, the familiar saying, "If it isn't grown, it has to be mined," certainly speaks to the need for mineral resource production.

I look forward to continued production in Gold Hill by the Colorado Milling Company, LLC.
Thank you for this opportunity to offer my support.



Silvia Pettem