



SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO

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To Whom It May Concern:

San Juan County strongly supports the continuing efforts of Operation Link Up to have Qwest fulfill the terms of the 2000 MNT contract to reach San Juan County and Silverton, the county seat with fiber optic infrastructure.

San Juan County is extremely disappointed to be the only county in the State of Colorado left out of this important state-wide initiative at the discretion and convenience of Qwest. The lack of fiber optic infrastructure leaves San Juan County with a distinct disadvantage for economic development within our county and defeats the purpose of the MNT program.

The contract, project updates, status reports and final report given to the State stated that San Juan County would or did receive fiber optic infrastructure. This simply did not happen. After the "close" of the project, Qwest chose not to fulfill its contractual obligation to the State of Colorado to complete the fiber optic link to Silverton. San Juan County was never contacted by Qwest, the MNT Executive Committee or the Department of Information Technology about this matter. After the fact, we found out through project documentation that Qwest cited right-of-way issue with property owners around Cascade Village for delays in the fiber build to Silverton. San Juan County was never informed of this issue by Qwest or asked to assist in securing right of way so that the fiber optic cable could be brought the remaining 16 miles to Silverton, the county seat. According to the 2000 MNT contract and all of the project documentation we are still due a fiber optic line.

We respectfully ask you to enforce the completion of the contract with Qwest and bring the fiber optic infrastructure the remaining 16 miles to Silverton as intended.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest F. Kuhlman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Ernest F. Kuhlman, Chairman
San Juan County Commissioners