



May 23, 2006

The Honorable Bill Owens
Governor
State of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Subject: Fiber Optic Line to Silverton and San Juan County

Dear Governor Bill Owens:

More than six years ago the State of Colorado awarded Qwest a \$37 million dollar contract to install a fiber optic network that would link every county seat. The project has been completed, with one prominent and unfortunate exception. To this day, San Juan County and Silverton, the county seat, remain unconnected to the fiber optic network that all other Colorado counties enjoy.

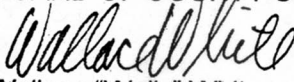
Instead of providing the fiber optic line as required, Qwest has provided San Juan County with a microwave radio link. This was originally presented as a temporary solution until a right-of-way issue could be resolved and the fiber optic installed; however we understand that this has become the permanent solution leaving our neighbors to the north, Silverton and San Juan County, at a great technical disadvantage. The microwave system is not as fast or as reliable as a fiber optic line, and community members in San Juan County believe the current system has had an adverse impact on local government, education and the business community.

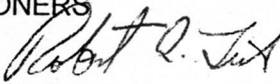
Given that San Juan County is one of the most remote counties in Colorado, the fiber optic connection represents a lifeline to this community. The La Plata County Board of Commissioners believes that San Juan County should benefit equally with other counties in Colorado and should be connected to the state-wide fiber optic network. Therefore, we urge you to assist to San Juan County in its efforts to secure a fiber optic line to Silverton.

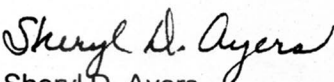
Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Wallace "Wally" White
Chair


Robert A. Lieb
Vice Chair


Sheryl D. Ayers
Commissioner