

Florence Chamber of Commerce

117 S. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 784-3544

P.O. Box 145
Florence, Colorado 81226

26 NOV. 2007

BOCC
615 MACON AVE.
CANON CITY, CO. 81212

DEAR COMMISSIONERS:

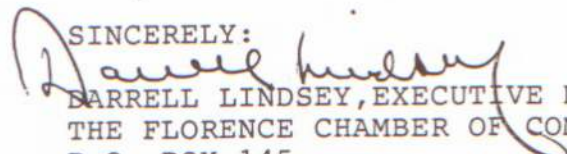
WE ARE HAPPY TO ADD OUR SUPPORT TO THE 2007 COMMUNITY APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY FREMONT COUNTY FOR A PRESERVE AMERICA DESIGNATION FOR FREMONT COUNTY.

THE FLORENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE COMMERCE BUSINESS SINCE 1912 IS QUITE AWARE OF THE MANY HISTORICAL FACTS THAT INVOLVE THE EASTERN FREMONT COUNTY AREA, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE TOWNS OF ROCKVALE, COAL CREEK, WILLIAMSBURG AND THE ENTITY OF PENROSE WHICH IS UN-INCORPORATED. FROM THE MINES AND OIL FIELDS IN THE FLORENCE AREA, TO THE FLORENCE & CRIPPLE CREEK RAILROAD, THE ORE REDUCTION MILLS THAT THE TRAINS HAULED TO FLORENCE FROM THE GOLD CAMPS, WE ARE LITERALLY STEEPED IN HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS. WE LAY CLAIM TO HAVING THE OLDEST PRODUCING OIL WELL IN THE FLORENCE FIELD AND ALSO ARE THE SECOND OLDEST OIL FIELD IN THESE UNITED STATES. THE CITY OF FLORENCE IS ACTUALLY OLDER THAN THE STATE OF COLORADO AS TO WHEN IT WAS PLATTED. THERE ARE MANY GHOST TOWNS THAT DOT THE SOUTHFIELD AREA THAT AT ONE TIME MADE THE HISTORY OF FREMONT COUNTY VERY INTERESTING. COAL, ONCE OUR LIFE BLOOD IN THE LABOR MARKET BOASTED SOME 28 COAL MINES IN THE SOUTH FIELD AREA, BUT, WITH THE ADVENT OF OSHA MOST WERE CLOSED DOWN TO MEET NEW SAFETY STANDARDS. ONE NEW COAL MINE NEAR FLORENCE IS BEING CONSTRUCTED AND SHOULD BE UP AND RUNNING IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE PRICE PIONEER MUSEUM IN FLORENCE IS LOADED WITH MANY FACTS AND ARTIFACTS RELATIVE TO THE HISTORY OF EASTERN FREMONT COUNTY. THE FLORENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLISHED A BOOKLET IN 1906 ENTITLED FLORENCE AND ITS ENVIRONS RELATING TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE FLORENCE AREA. WE WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS BOOKLET AVAILABLE SHOULD THE NEED EXIST.

IF THERE BE FURTHER CONCERN OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT DARRELL LINDSEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FLORENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, P.O. BOX 145, FLORENCE, CO. 81226. 719 784 3544 dlindsey@piopc.net.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US THE HONOR OF EXPRESSING OUR HISTORICAL EXISTANCE IN THE FLORENCE AREA.

SINCERELY:


DARRELL LINDSEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE FLORENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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