



The Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway

27 November 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Our board is extremely proud to add our support for Fremont County's application for selection of Fremont County, Colorado as a Preserve America Community.

Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway was designated a National Byway in large part because of the history along our corridor. The largest percent of our roads/corridor is within Fremont County, which allows the visitor to experience some of the same routes traveled during the last/greatest Gold Rush in US history. Gold Belt Tour Byway involves 3 major routes, Phantom Canyon originally cut up a canyon as a railroad in 1894, Shelf Road served as a Toll Road to the mining district and High Park road was the road used by early pioneers to reach the rich lands needed for farming and ranching.

Our Vision and Goals for the region includes: **Maintain the significant historical characteristics along the byway and in each community;** and **we want to instill an appreciation for the diverse natural history and significant paleontology and geology that makes this byway special.** We have recently received a Byway grant to work with our communities and the State of Colorado to promote Heritage Tourism in the Fremont County Area. We have an amazing amount of historic/cultural resources that we enjoy and hope others can learn to appreciate.

We currently work with Fremont County on many varied projects and this nomination can only lead to unified efforts in historic preservation and heritage tourism. Having the entire county behind these important efforts can only lead to more preservation of the varied and abundant history.

Again we are honored to support this nomination and urge you to look favorably upon the application. If I can be of any other assistance or you have questions, please feel free to call 719-689-2461.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Bumgarner
Executive Director

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goldbeltbyway.com