



Colorado South

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
Attn: Mike Kazmierski, President and CEO
90 S. Cascade Ave.
Ste. 1050
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

October 13, 2009

Dear Mr. Kazmierski:

The board of directors of The American Institute of Architects, Colorado South Chapter is issuing this letter to voice support for the Colorado Springs EDC. As representatives of our more than 100 architect-members in Colorado Springs and the surrounding region, we support EDC's fundamental mission, which is promote job attraction, retention and creation in the Colorado Springs area. Intelligent growth provides a direct benefit to our members in the form of economic activity, projects and professional opportunities.

However, after thoughtful consideration, the board of directors opposes EDC's proposed voluntary fee assessment that would be appended to the building permit process at the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (PPRBD). A number of questions arose as the board weighed your proposal, which was brought to us by the Affiliated Commercial Construction Associations (ACCA). The board of directors concluded that this voluntary assessment is not an appropriate way for EDC to raise additional funds.

Our primary concern is that the collection of the assessment would be administered by a publicly funded governmental organization, PPRBD. There is no provision within the PPRBD's mandate that they have resources or direction to administer processing these assessments, and doing so could take significant time and lengthen the permitting process. Additionally, we are concerned that adding one assessment would then give other organizations the freedom to propose new assessments, further compounding the above issues.

This administration is outside the PPRBD's narrow scope of prudent adjudication of life-safety issues, codes and protection of the public. We urge EDC to consider finding an alternate means of raising funds for its important mission.

Sincerely,

RJ Steer, AIA
AIA Colorado South 2009 President

cc: ACCA, c/o Pat Ziuchkovski, AIA

AIA Colorado South
1515 Arapahoe St., Ste. 1-110
Denver, CO 80202
303.446.2266 (p)
303.446.0066 (f)
www.aiacolorado.org