

'We Believe You Have a Right to Know How We Will Respond to the Community's Decision'

Few if any issues in Telluride evoke such passion as the debate over the future of the Valley Floor. The Town Council and the community are now discussing two distinct approaches

GUEST COMMENTARY



BY

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to the issue: continued condemnation proceedings or the adoption of a moratorium on both development and condemnation. We believe you are entitled to nothing less than a clear and unambiguous statement as to how we will respond to the adoption of either approach.

At the outset, however, it is important for the community to appreciate that neither the moratorium proposal nor the condemnation proposal was initiated by SMVC. Both approaches came

from individuals, organizations or elected officials from within the community. The company does not have any stake or vested interest in either approach.

CONDEMNATION

A new condemnation ordinance was recently presented to the Council by Sheep Mountain Alliance. It would place before the voters a measure that would attempt to condemn all SMVC land south of the highway, presumably for open space.

Our position on this proposal is crystal clear, and is consistent with the position we have taken since the previous Town Council voted in favor of condemnation proceedings: if any form of condemnation is pursued, we will use every available legal means and all necessary resources to fight it.

We believe that:

- condemnation of the Valley Floor will ultimately be found to be illegal;
- while some in the commu-

nity believe the cost of the land targeted for condemnation has a value of \$15 million, we have a solid basis to believe that number is not even in the ballpark;

- condemnation will result in a long and enormously costly battle for both SMVC and the taxpayers of Telluride;

- condemnation will drain the very resources the Town needs to address critical issues such as affordable housing and schools; ?

- a condemnation battle will result in further dividing the community.

MORATORIUM

As almost everyone already knows, the moratorium proposal came out of informal discussions between a member of the community and a member of the Town Council. The two-phased proposal was really quite simple. In Phase One, SMVC would agree in writing not to develop

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