STATE OF COLORADO

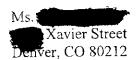
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol Denver, Colorado 80203-1792 Phone (303) 866-2471



Bill Owens Governor

August 12, 2003





Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the important issue of public roads and access to public lands governed by the old law known as RS-2477.

Please be assured that I, too, would be concerned about a "secret deal" being made. The specific agreement entered into by the US Department of Interior (DOI) and the State of Utah — which you address in your letter — was accomplished in secret, closed-door meetings with no public process whatsoever and with involvement of no stakeholders on either side. I strongly object to that process, as you do.

In Colorado, no solution to this contentious issue could work unless developed by a very public process with all sides fairly represented. This is precisely why I contacted the Secretary of Interior and requested a different process for Colorado, and it's why we have insisted that the Utah deal cannot be used as a national model. If Interior agrees to address the issue in Colorado, we are committed to a process that will bring to the table interested stakeholders from across the state to ensure that all concerns are represented in a fair and open discussion.

Colorado and Utah are not the same. No one-size-fits-all national solution can work. Our state's public lands situation is unique and we hope to find a solution that will meet the diverse needs of our state. The interspersed nature of our state's rural private lands and federal lands create a mosaic that must be examined on a Colorado-specific basis.

I look forward to working with the Department of Interior and the citizens of Colorado to come up with a solution that works for all Coloradans. I hope you will want to participate in helping find a solution that can resolve this age-old debate.

Sincerely, Owens.