

TIMOTHY E. WIRTH

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer a positive recommendation for Gary Sprung. I have known Gary for many years and have watched his work advance. Gary worked long and hard for a significant achievement, the designation of Fossil Ridge as Wilderness. He undertook that project in 1980, when I was in the House of Representatives. He organized the Friends of Fossil Ridge group and found a rancher to chair the organization. He thoroughly investigated the land and spoke with nearby landowners and relevant land users. He effectively organized citizen action, influences local and federal governments and testified before Congress. I give Gary major credit for this place's protection. As a United State Senator, I was pleased to be able to include Fossil Ridge in our Colorado Wilderness Act which passed in 1993.

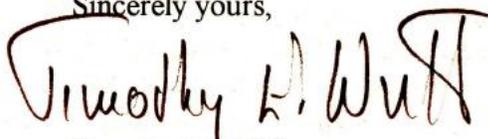
Gary ably directed a local citizens' advocacy group, the High Country Citizens Alliance. Together with a group of dedicated activists, Gary has made a great deal of difference for the communities of Crested Butte and Gunnison, Colorado. He is an effective public speaker and writes clearly and succinctly. He has a strong grasp of issues and political processes. His work on public land grazing reform had national impact and helped to resolve that thorny issue. His willingness to collaborate with opponents shows a balance and perspective rare among environmental activists. And when collaboration and compromise are not possible, he knows how to put up a good fight to stand for important principles.

He also seems to be an effective manager, for the HCCA almost tripled in membership and increased its budget tenfold during his seven-year tenure as leader. It's now a well known and effective grassroots advocacy group in the West, thanks partly to his skills and dedication.

In his position as a member of the Town Council of Crested Butte, Gary is doing a good job, listening carefully to citizen input and providing leadership and insight. His 1995 campaign for election was also effective and well organized.

His skills, dedication, commitment and leadership would be valuable to any organization. I highly recommend Gary for a diverse array of professional and political positions.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy E. Wirth

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