

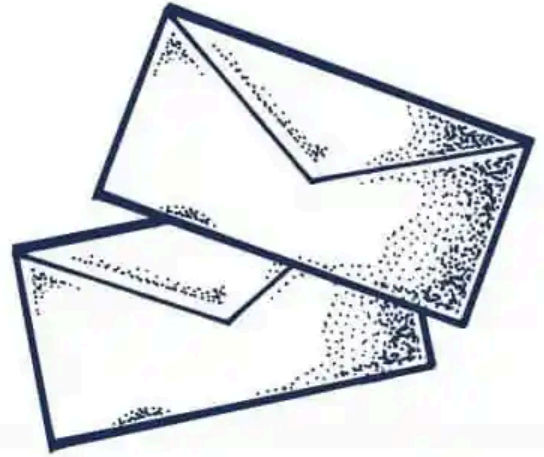
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Strong support



by **Park Record contributor**
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am writing to you today to express my strong support for the Dakota Pacific project and to warn the community about the potential dangers of a ballot referendum opposing this crucial development.

The Dakota Pacific project promises to bring significant benefits to our local economy and community.

The Dakota Pacific project will bring needed affordable and attainable housing for workers in our economy and vital public service workers (teachers, firefighters, law enforcement, and other public sector staff) and is designed with sustainability and environmental stewardship at its core.

The developers have committed to using green building practices and incorporating renewable energy sources. When 100% renewable electrical energy becomes available in Summit County, by 2030, this will be a net zero community, likely the largest in Utah.

However, the opposition to this project, as proposed in the upcoming ballot referendum, poses a significant threat to these potential benefits. This could result in missed opportunities for improvements in the transportation infrastructure at Kimball Junction and the needed increase in affordable housing.

Those who oppose the project often cite concerns about increased traffic. These concerns are valid. There is no denying the daily traffic congestion at Kimball Junction during both morning and evening commutes. In that S.R. 224 is a state highway, only UDOT can fix the problem.

The political reality is that Summit County is in competition for UDOT funding with much more populated parts of the state with measurably more significant traffic volumes and congestion and with political support in the Legislature.

When I was council chair in 2021, I received a letter from the president of the Senate and speaker of the House pledging their support for funding the Kimball Junction improvements if the project was approved. Without this support traffic congestion will continue to deteriorate.

There is also a faction of the opponents who are in the “Close the door, no growth ever” camp. It should be obvious to a very casual observer of our current Legislature and governor that this attitude will not be tolerated by the leaders of our state.

As a former council member, I absolutely hate the idea that the state would take over development decisions that should be made locally. That result is inevitable if there is a threat of a referendum.

Our current council has done a magnificent job of obtaining benefits for the county from this agreement including county-owned affordable housing, senior housing and potential memory care, non-profit space, retail/restaurant and community gathering spaces, amphitheater, library, and an enhanced transit center.

A referendum rejecting this project could jeopardize all of those benefits.

In conclusion, I urge my fellow residents to carefully consider the long-term benefits of the Dakota Pacific project and the potential risks of voting against it. I highly recommend against signing the referendum petition.

Glenn Wright

Park City