



Tri - State  
1100 W. 116<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Denver, CO 80233

August 19, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Tri- State, and Xcel Energy, along with our local SLV Rural Electric Company in their proposed transmission line from Alamosa to near Walsenburg.

As CEO of the only full service hospital in the San Luis Valley, SLV Regional Medical Center, I am acutely aware of the possible hazards of our current situation in having only one transmission line route into the San Luis Valley over Poncha Pass. If that line met with disaster, while our hospital is mandated to be able to generate at least 96 hours of power for our facility, there is risk to our patients if we loose generator power or if this corridor serving the entire Valley is disabled beyond our capabilities.

There is also considerable opportunity in the San Luis Valley to be a part of the future of solar energy production which will require the transmission of power out of the Valley. This possibility has inspired the potential for economic development opportunities, desperately needed in our valley.

It is with expectation and confidence that I endorse this project and ask for your strong consideration of moving forward to make it a reality.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell W. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russell W. Johnson CEO,  
SLV Regional Medical Center

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