

Clarification needed on Save the Poudre course

Filed Under Opinion Letters

Sep. 29

coloradoan.com

The Coloradoan article on Sept. 13 mentions challenges on behalf of the environment from the group Save the Poudre, regarding the proposed Encompass building in the River District. “The group has said it plans to contest the proposal as it goes through the city’s development review process,” you wrote.

Didn’t I recently read in your paper that Gary Wockner of Save the Poudre had withdrawn the group’s opposition? Is this another objection to the project by Wockner’s group, or the same?

A couple weeks ago I attended a lecture by the CSU’s Center for Public Deliberation, led by Dr. Martin Carcasson. This is the same group that organized community input for the on-campus stadium. Carcasson maintains that citizens seem more capable of compromising for the greater good than our own U.S. government.

I thought of Wockner, and how progressive it was to give an inch to industry for the sake of compromise. Save the Poudre should be commended for moving toward the middle. Instead, it seems local reports continue to perpetuate the vision of environmental groups as obstructionists.

How can we move forward from the paralysis of polarity when these assumptions persist despite efforts to dialog with open minds? Please correct me if the group compromised some objections and then raised more. Otherwise, Save the Poudre has been miscast as an obstructionist when perhaps it is a leader in fair discourse. I will enjoy a riverside restaurant, but I’m also glad that a grassroots group questions developers so the river ecosystem isn’t exploited without challenge.

Sonia Koetting