

## City of Aurora

**Steve Hogan**

**Mayor**

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The Honorable Sean Ford  
Mayor, Commerce City  
5291 E. 60th Ave.  
Commerce City, CO 80022

Dear Mayor Ford:

I write to you today about a current situation that is affecting Aurora, but has long-term implications for any metro area city undertaking a project with regional impacts. As you may be aware, Aurora has worked for the last three years to have the Gaylord Rockies Hotel and Conference Center built in our community. As an important part of the financing package for this project, we applied for funding under the Regional Tourism Act and were granted state sales tax rebates by the Colorado Economic Development Commission after an open and transparent process.

A group of downtown Denver hoteliers have opposed the Gaylord for fear of competition and have done everything in their power to delay the project and discourage our developer. We have fought and won legal battles that have delayed the Gaylord project for several years. We are in the home stretch now, but our opponents have not given up.

Numerous independent studies have shown that the Gaylord Rockies will attract more than 450,000 new tourists to the state each year, creating more than 10,000 construction jobs and more than 2,500 permanent jobs. These are jobs our state needs and the out-of-state tourists staying at the hotel will spend hundreds of millions of dollars in Colorado each year growing our state's economy.

Now there are rumors circulating that a late bill will be introduced this session of the Colorado State Legislature putting the Gaylord Rockies Hotel and Conference Center in jeopardy. We don't know what form this bill will take, but we are vigilantly monitoring the Legislature to identify the threat, if and when it occurs, and are rallying supporters to resist this anti-competitive action.

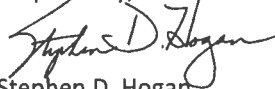
The Gaylord project has gained national media attention and businesses throughout the country are watching our state closely to see if Colorado continues to offer a business-friendly environment. If Colorado reverses the commitments it has made on the Gaylord project it will create a chilling effect on our state's business climate that could take decades to repair. The State of Colorado's stability, reliability and integrity are at stake. Today it is Gaylord and Aurora, tomorrow it could be a project in your community.

Would you please respond to me and let me know if you (and your city if possible) will agree to be listed as a supporter of clear, fair, non-retroactive development processes? If you or your city are also supportive of the specific Gaylord project, I would like to know that as well. Please note I do intend to release the names of all Metro Area Mayors who are in agreement with either option.

It would be greatly appreciated if you do support my requests, if you would contact your state legislators and let them know of your position. The following is a Call to Action link to directly contact all state legislators and express your support for the project: <http://tiny.cc/tsnzux>. It will take less than 30 seconds to complete. I wish I could give you a bill number to oppose, but very frankly, if legislators hear from enough of their Mayors, constituents and business leaders that changing the rules in the middle of the game is patently unfair, there may be no bill at all.

I urge you to send a message to our state and nation that Colorado is open for business and we don't change development rules retroactively. Colorado's economy depends upon it.

Respectfully,

  
Stephen D. Hogan  
Mayor