

**CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE
COLORADO**

2450 E. Quincy Avenue
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113
www.cherryhillsvillage.com

Village Center
Telephone 303-789-2541
FAX 303-761-9386

March 21, 2023

Dear Senator Bridges and Representative Froelich:

We are writing to you today to emphasize the importance of Home Rule and local control, not only for residents of Cherry Hills Village, but residents across Colorado. In particular, Cherry Hills Village is concerned with specific efforts to enact legislation that would impinge on the Village's long held and legally established Home Rule authority to implement zoning and other measures to guide its land use determinations.

Local control through home-rule communities has been a cornerstone tenant throughout Colorado's history, and one that is memorialized in the state's constitution. This tenant has been reaffirmed by Colorado residents through the establishment of over 100 home-rule municipalities, whose residents chose to go through the process to claim the "full right of self-government in both local and municipal matters" granted by the constitution. Local control allows communities to set their own vision, which limits the negative effects of a top-down, one-size-fits-all solution for a wide range of issues.

Cherry Hills Village has had a consistent vision of rural and semi-rural land use since its inception. The irrigation from the High Line Canal brought farms and homes to the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and some original farmhouses and barns still stand today. More residents populated the area as an escape from the big city. Cherry Hills Village incorporated in 1945 and became a Home Rule municipality in 1966 in order to preserve residents' right to protect the unique semi-rural character of the area.

Of particular interest these days is the proposed state infringement on local home rule communities concerning one of the most local of all issues, land use control. Cherry Hills Village recently completed a lengthy process of gathering public input and hearing from residents about their priorities and visions for the future of the Village. These efforts resulted in an update to the Village's Master Plan that reaffirms these long-held priorities and visions. We ask that you strongly oppose any statewide efforts to infringe on local home rule and that would diminish or cripple these local visions.

We urge you to consider the unique needs and challenges of each community, and to empower local governments to make decisions that best serve their constituents. Moreover, loss of local control means loss of the ability for residents to engage in the community development process. We know our community best and should have the opportunity to shape its future in a way that is sustainable and meets the needs of our residents.

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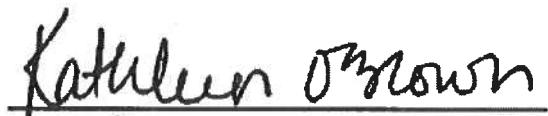
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In conclusion, we urge you to defend Home Rule and local control as critical components of effective governance. By working together with local communities, we can develop innovative solutions that best serve our constituents, and create a brighter future for all Coloradans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Katy Brown
Mayor, City of Cherry Hills Village



Mayor Pro Tem Randy Weil
District 1, City of Cherry Hills Village



Councilor Al Blum
District 3, City of Cherry Hills Village



Councilor Dan Sheldon
District 5, City of Cherry Hills Village



Councilor Earl Hoellen
District 2, City of Cherry Hills Village



Councilor Susan Maguire
District 4, City of Cherry Hills Village



Councilor Robert Eber
District 6, City of Cherry Hills Village