

Jim Burnett

As a citizen of Alto, NM who lives off of NM 220 (i.e., Airport Rd), I am writing to register my opposition to Roper Construction's appeal of the decision made by NMED, denying Roper's permit application (NMED decision dated 6/22/22). Perhaps I should be saying Roper's multiple, amended applications? Can it be that Roper had as many attempts as needed to submit an application that, technically, met the requirements of NMED? And, while Roper was given several "do over" attempts with his application, NMED still found a sufficient number of issues with the application to deny granting it.

But, this isn't the reason I'm writing to you. Rather, I am writing because the stunning, natural beauty that is Ruidoso/Alto, NM is in jeopardy because a thoughtless, well-heeled individual knowingly seeks to impose his reality on hundreds of resident locals. As is the case with many/most of the local residents, we chose the Airport Rd corridor because of its unique beauty, its native trees and vegetation and its abundant wildlife. Perhaps there is no greater indicator of these attributes than the fact that Airport Rd has been designated a "Billy the Kid Scenic By Way". Just how scenic is this by way likely to remain with a concrete batch plant sitting nearly at its starting point? I am confident that we would not have considered making Alto our home with a concrete batch plant sitting very nearby and I believe this would be the case for my neighbors, as well. But, the fact is, we are all living here and we're in jeopardy of losing not only the natural beauty, but the value of our investment, as well (the local real estate community has estimated a 20% to 50% diminution of local property values, should the CBP be permitted).

I invite you to come by Airport Rd to see for yourself. It would be apparent to you that the proposed CBP simply doesn't belong here. Further, I invite you to stop by our residence (340 Santiago Circle). My wife and I are truly fortunate to have found this place. The Rio Bonito crosses our land and it attracts virtually all of the native wildlife. This summer alone, we have seen deer, elk, foxes, flocks of wild turkeys, javalinas and mountain lions crossing through our property. They are here because of the availability of clean water, in addition to native vegetation. It would be criminal to quite literally run these creatures off our land as it becomes uninhabitable for them.

We are not trying to say to Roper Construction that he cannot have his CBP in the area. What we are saying is that the Airport Rd site that he has chosen is not a proper location for his plant.

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Alto, NM