

## Oral statement to BOCC re planning

My name is Trish Pegram and I am president of the League of Women Voters of La Plata County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about something which is of concern to the League. We have been a part of the comprehensive planning process in the county since its beginning, with members involved in the public meetings and on the work group. Although it did not include everything we wanted, we did support the proposed plan that was sent to the Planning Commission after lengthy work by many people. We can no longer support what the plan has become and ask that you do not approve it.

One significant area of concern is the elimination by the Planning Commission of the section of the draft plan on sustainability. In 2010, The League of Women Voters of Colorado adopted a policy in support of sustainability. This was done after study and consensus being reached by all local leagues in the state. To have this important value for all our League members summarily eliminated from the county's planning is a critical loss. There are other substantive areas in which the Planning Commission has either made or discussed changes to the draft language that are of concern to the League, including in transportation, alternative energy sources and intergovernmental agreements.

We appreciate the time invested and work done by so many county citizens from diverse constituencies and with diverse priorities that led to the draft plan. It appears to many of us that all this citizen input was given little consideration by some members of the Planning Commission. This can send the wrong message for the future. The next time the county requests citizen input on an issue, the response may be "why should I bother---you won't pay any attention to me anyway". That would be a most unfortunate development for the governmental health of our community.

The League has long been a supporter of comprehensive planning. Locally we adopted a position on this in the 1980's. But the plan that we see coming from the Planning Commission will not be the guide that the county needs, or that the citizens want, for our future. We can not support it, and ask that you do not either.

Thank you for this time to present the League position. I have a written statement that has been passed around to you and I appreciate your consideration of it, also.