

Ryan Howser

From: Rebecca Rudder2
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Ryan Howser
Subject: FW: Colorado Pumpkin Patch

Please add to the record for the Colorado Pumpkin patch.

Thank you!



Rebecca Rudder

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From: John Lynch <john.lynch5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Carrie Geitner <CarrieGeitner@elpasoco.com>
Subject: Colorado Pumpkin Patch

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Hi Commissioner Geitner,

I'm writing to you regarding the Colorado Pumpkin Patch located on Saddlewood Road in Monument. I understand there are concerns about traffic in the area resulting from the Pumpkin Patch festivities each year and consequently the future of the Pumpkin Patch may be under threat or become unsustainable.

I wanted to communicate my view of the Pumpkin Patch as a local resident.

For our family, the Pumpkin Patch is a mainstay of fall. We have 4- and 6- year old daughters and religiously purchase season passes for the Pumpkin Patch each year. For our girls, there is a palpable sense of anticipation in the run up to the opening of the Pumpkin Patch each year and overwhelming happiness each time we go there. They also get the opportunity to go there on school trips which is a very big deal for these kids! For my wife and I, we get such a strong sense of community in seeing some of the same faces each year and seeing so many others that travel from afar. We also love the idea of supporting a local family like the Chapmans. We live in a world where small, local businesses are an endangered species. It would be a shame to see another local entrepreneur being shut down or their business becoming untenable.

This summer, our eldest daughter attended one of the summer farm camps for the first time and had such a fun time that she wants to go back every summer and is already planning to do Pony Camp next summer as well. We also know of families who've been blessed to be part of the Pumpkin Patch's special needs program, which is another great example of how it has reached out and touched various parts of our community. Another aspect of the Pumpkin Patch that I'd like to highlight is that it provides employment

(especially first jobs) to teenagers in the community. This provides a great mentoring opportunity for young adults that cannot be undervalued.

I can appreciate that there is increased traffic on the streets between Highway 105 and the Pumpkin Patch during September and October weekends. But as someone who goes there at least once every weekend during that time, I can honestly say that I consistently see drivers being respectful that they're driving through residential areas and the Pumpkin Patch does a good job of managing traffic flow in and out of the site.

In summary, I hope you can appreciate the value and impact the Pumpkin Patch has on our local community in Northern El Paso County and will be able to support its continued existence in a manner that allows it to thrive.

Best regards,

John Lynch