



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 699  
SALIDA, CO 81201

### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS, one hundred years ago workers in Chaffee County excavated a 30 foot deep concrete base and used 264 railroad carloads of glazed brick and mortar to construct a masonry smokestack for the Ohio Colorado Smelting and Refining Company in Smelertown, topping out at 365 feet on November 12, 1917, at a time when there were no taller structures west of the Mississippi River; and**

**WHEREAS, the smelter smokestack was built taller than any others at the plant in order to more effectively disperse toxic gas and other pollutants in response to neighbor complaints and the fact that it happened, as local historian Dick Dixon said "during an age when ecology regularly took a back seat to industry, makes it truly a credit to the men who ran the plant;" and**

**WHEREAS, in 1974, decades after the smelter closed, the Save-Our-Stack citizen group, SOS, stopped demolition of the smokestack so it would remain standing as a historical landmark and property of the Salida Museum Association; and**

**WHEREAS, in 1976, the smelter smokestack became the second historic property in Chaffee County to successfully nominated and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its high visibility as a monument to the mining industry and its workers in Colorado; and**

**WHEREAS, the smelter smokestack contributes to the Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byway through Chaffee County as an identifiable landmark that can be seen from miles away and boasts of a wayside exhibit installed at its base in 2009 through the efforts of the Chaffee County Heritage Commission; and**

**WHEREAS, the nonprofit Salida Museum Association, which has safeguarded the property since it was nearly torn down, desires to honor the historic smokestack by holding a public 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party and has scheduled the event for August 26, 2017 at the Smokestack;**

**NOW THEREFORE, we, the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017 SMELTER SMOKESTACK 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY IN CHAFFEE COUNTY, and encourage all residents of Chaffee County to wish the Smokestack a Happy 100<sup>th</sup> and to support the preservation of all of our historic structures for the benefit of this and future generations!**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dave Potts'.

Dave Potts

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Greg Felt'.

Greg Felt

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Keith Baker'.

Keith Baker