

OPINION

Letters to the editor

Correcting comments made about Zephyr survey

age that a mine would bring is intolerable.
**Royal Gorge Preservation Project,
Fremont County**

The Dawson Ranch HOA recently surveyed the entire population of Dawson Ranch regarding the residents' support or opposition to Zephyr Minerals' exploratory/mining activities. The results were dramatic with 54.7% (268) of the resident-occupied properties responding. 86.2% opposed mining activity while 8.2% (22) were in support. Undecided votes garnered 5.6%.

Owners were given the opportunity to provide comments supporting their position. Supportive comments included "Yet to see problem"; "Not concerned"; "Good for economy and home values"; "Underground. No mining for six to eight years". Comments in opposition included "Hold Commissioners accountable (several comments)"; "Would not have bought here if . . ."; "Damage to . . . endangering environment (several)"; "Stop ASAP"; "Fight this. Pollution, noise, dust, nothing good"; "Devalue property and quality of life"; "Get them out"; and others.

Logic might lead one to suspect that the high percentage of negative responses were due to Dawson's proximity to the exploratory zone. Then again, maybe the Dawson residents simply understood that a mine, proximate or not, was a lousy idea in any case. The strong oppositional numbers are very probably representative of a concerned community, at large.

Zephyr Minerals, Ltd. has an exploratory permit covering approximately 7.5 miles, east to west, southwest of Cañon City. Their current area of interest, having shifted from gold exploration, is in the center of this 7.5-mile zone, approximately four-plus miles wide. It is bisected by Grape Creek and represents an alleged potential mega-strike of lead, silver, and zinc that they are rolling their exploratory dice on. Drill rigs; helicopter transport of men, equipment and lubricants; plus water pump(s) positioned in Grape Creek to feed their drills, present a clear and present danger.

Notwithstanding the effects on wildlife and everything that grows, the threat of fire is exponentially increased. This fact needs no elaboration. Short term damage to our community is unacceptable; the long-term dam-
