Re: The upcoming City Council work session – the certification of our community as part of the "Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve.”

Dear Alamosa City Council,

We are writing to urge you to strongly consider the potential impact of such strict lighting regulations on our local business community. While this initiative has many aspects worthy of consideration, The Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce, representing a diverse array of businesses, has received many concerns about the financial burden and costs associated with upgrading lighting and signage to comply with the proposed regulations, as well as safety and visibility concerns.

Our business community plays a crucial role in the prosperity of our city. As we consider measures to potentially achieve a Dark Sky Reserve certification, it is crucial to strike a balance that ensures this does not result in unduly burdening our local enterprises, many of whom are still struggling to recover from losses incurred during the pandemic and to keep up with rising general costs. The proposed regulations may necessitate substantial investments in upgrading lighting systems and signage for businesses across various sectors. This could impose a financial strain on many establishments, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, which form the backbone of our local economy. For many, covering these costs would be simply unattainable. As stewards of the community's well-being, I urge you to carefully weigh the potential economic impact on our business community in the decision-making process.

Moreover, we encourage the City Council to engage in adequate constructive dialogue with the business community to better understand their concerns, how these changes will affect them, and explore collaborative solutions. By fostering open communication and cooperation, we can determine what components might be achieved while safeguarding the economic interests of our local businesses.

We appreciate your dedication to enhancing the quality of life in our city, and we trust that, with careful consideration of the concerns raised by the business community, we can find a balanced approach that can still make an impact to safeguard dark skies moving forward, without imposing further burdens and costs on our valued business community. Thank you for your time and commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Erin Keck, CEO Board of Directors

Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce