



*Hayden School District RE-1
P.O. Box 70, 300 Breeze Basin Blvd.
Hayden, CO 81639*

September 25, 2024

Routt County Commissioners
522 Lincoln Avenue
Suite 30
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Dear County Commissioners,

As the Hayden School Board of Directors, we are writing to express our collective concerns regarding the planned construction traffic for the Trapper Solar Project and the proposed route that directs this traffic past the Hayden School District via Poplar Street. We strongly oppose routing heavy construction traffic through an area so close to our schools, where it poses a serious risk to student safety and the learning environment.

First and foremost, the safety of our students is of utmost importance. Increased construction traffic in close proximity to our schools will lead to higher risks for students walking, biking, or being transported to and from school. The area is already congested during drop-off and pick-up times, and the addition of large construction vehicles will create an environment of elevated risk for accidents and potential harm to our students, staff, and families.

Beyond the physical safety concerns, the constant flow of heavy vehicles over the 18 month construction period will likely bring increased noise, vibration, and pollution. These disruptions would directly impact the learning environment. Noise disturbances are known to interfere with concentration and classroom activities, which are critical to student success. Additionally, some of our students, particularly those with sensory sensitivities, would be disproportionately affected by the constant noise and rumble of construction vehicles.

The Hayden School District has worked diligently to provide a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment for all students, and we fear this construction traffic will undermine these efforts. We strongly urge the County Commissioners to explore alternative routes for the construction traffic that do not compromise the safety of our school community.

We are confident that the County Commissioners will give serious consideration to our concerns and work with the necessary stakeholders to find a solution that allows the solar field project to proceed without threatening the well-being of our students and staff.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to working together to find a resolution that supports both the progress of renewable energy and the safety of our children.

Sincerely,
Ryan Wattles, President
Jody Camilletti, Vice President
Evan Fleming, Treasurer
Alicia Doolin, Secretary
Katie Boyle, Member
Hayden School District Board of Education