

RIO BLANCO

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March 10, 2016

Senator K. Mullin
Chair of the Senate Committee
Sen. Economic Development, Housing & Gen. Affairs
State House, Montpelier, VT

CC: Rep Gabrielle Lucke – Windsor 4-2, VT House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs
Dear Senator:

Byron Hathorn and I want to thank Rep Gabrielle Lucke for her service and representation to change the language specific to members of the United Methodist Church and their internal voting regulations regarding real estate transactions.

We strongly support changing the law to in order to more accurately reflect the desires of a United Methodist Church to sell property based on a simple majority of a vote taken, according to the internal laws of the Methodist Church. The Methodist religion is the only religion required by the State of Vermont to achieve a two-thirds majority and not a simple majority. Changing the law will bring the Methodist Church in accordance with the state laws and how they regulate other religious organizations.

Rio Blanco Corp is on the brink of starting construction on a large, state-of-the-art senior living and memory care project on an adjacent property to the Church. Although the WRJ congregation and Rio Blanco Corp were not able to reach an agreement under the current law, we look forward to re-opening the conversation with the Church at the point where we begin to contemplate a Phase Two expansion. We sincerely hope that when we return to these conversations, the state law will have been changed, and reflect a voting process that is fair and equal to all religious organizations.

Rio Blanco Corp applauds the work of this committee and sincerely wish the committee success.

Please do not hesitate to contact Byron or I, if there is further support either of us can provide.

Very Best –



Brooke Ciardelli
Rio Blanco Corp - Project Manager
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