



# WINTER PARK RESORT

MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE.

Dear Grand County Commissioners,

With the addition of a retail marijuana dispensary to Downtown Winter Park currently under consideration, Winter Park Resort would like to voice its strong opposition to the proposal, as it is our contention that it would negatively impact visitor experience to Winter Park and the Fraser Valley.

There's an old adage that "you never get a second chance to make a first impression," and the proposed placement of a dispensary in the location currently occupied by the Valley Hi Motel would literally be one of the first things visitors see when driving into Downtown Winter Park, hardly a desirous welcome to our community. Most importantly, a retail dispensary along Main Street would be completely antithetical to the family-friendly reputation that Winter Park Resort and the Town of Winter Park have spent decades successfully cultivating. Winter Park attracts visitors from all over the world because guests know they can get a great experience in an atmosphere that embraces families. A dispensary at the very entrance of town would not only damage that ethos, it would create a contradictory blight to the extremely family-friendly Cooper Creek Square, located almost directly across Highway 40.

In December, 2014 residents of the town of Breckenridge, which had long been at the forefront of the retail marijuana movement, voted by an overwhelming two-to-one margin to prohibit retail dispensaries on their Main Street, citing the possible loss of visitors to Vail, Beaver Creek, and yes, Winter Park.<sup>(1)</sup> That vote, one of the largest turnouts for a special election in Breckenridge history, demonstrates that even those most passionate about retail marijuana recognize the need for a sanctuary from dispensaries in town centers. Furthermore, if residents of Breckenridge strongly believed a dispensary along Main Street would drive visitors to other resorts, including Winter Park, it stands to reason that a dispensary in Downtown Winter Park would have the similar effect of sending those disinclined to the concept of retail marijuana elsewhere. Winter Park staunchly prides itself on being different than Breckenridge, Vail, and Beaver Creek, but this is an instance where being aligned with those communities is beneficial to everyone.

Colorado is a special state that values the liberties of its citizens, an attribute that in part entices thousands of people to move here each month. For those who desire retail marijuana, there is no shortage of pre-existing options with two dispensaries in Empire, two in Fraser, and one in Tabernash. With abundant choices for marijuana users already, sulling the quaint atmosphere of Downtown Winter Park with yet another dispensary is not only unnecessary, it's deprives those who don't partake in recreational marijuana the choice of refuge from dispensaries, which already seem ubiquitous in our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gary DeFrange  
President/COO  
Winter Park Resort

1. Footnote: <http://www.summitdaily.com/news/14174475-113/retail-marijuana-main-breckenridge>