January 12, 2021

Dear San Juan County Board of Commissioners Maryboy, Greyeyes and Adams,

The Moab City Council would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your vote on Tuesday, January 5, to deny the lease of the old Spanish Valley airstrip for the 2021 Rally on the Rocks (ROTR) trade show. We applaud your leadership in protecting the health, safety, and quality of life of not only San Juan County residents, but also of Moab City and Grand County residents.

The Moab City Council fully supports the Grand County Commission’s recent decision to deny the 2021 ROTR trade show special permit application. Moab residents have been writing to the City Council to express concerns about this event since at least 2016 when several of us first joined the Council. ROTR garners the most negative comments of all special events in our community.

We were concerned when we learned that the ROTR organizer was urging the San Juan County Commission to lease the old airstrip in Spanish Valley for the ROTR tradeshow. Such a lease would have effectively cancelled out the Grand County Commission’s denial of the event. It would have resulted in significant noise and disruptions to Moab residents and neighborhoods that the Grand County Commission’s denial had tried to avoid. Your decision to deny this lease is being widely celebrated by Moab City residents. Thank you.

As Spanish Valley is governed by three separate entities, the Moab City Council is looking forward to collaborating with both the San Juan County Commission and the Grand County Commission to tackle issues that span our respective geopolitical boundaries. We all share the same drinking water aquifer and dark night skies; our residential neighborhoods and commercial developments overlap with each other. We suspect that we also share the priority of protecting and enhancing the quality of life of all of the residents of the Valley. By communicating and working together more in future, we are confident that as members of the San Juan and Grand County Commissions and Moab City Council we can all gain broader perspectives that guide us to make decisions that support each other and benefit all residents of the greater Spanish Valley area.

Thank you again. We look forward to working with you in the future, and welcome any suggestions you may have on increasing communication between our government bodies.

Sincerely,

Emily Niehaus, Mayor
Moab City Council, approved January 12, 2021

cc: Grand County Commission