

Debbie Bell
Commissioner
Fremont County, District 2
Canon City, Co. 81212

October 14, 2025

Dear Commissioner Bell,

I am a member of the Florence Arts Council and was encouraged to apply to serve as Florence's representative on the Fremont County Tourism Board.

My commitment to Fremont County is longstanding. I first moved to Canon City in 1995, later relocated to Colorado Springs for two years to care for my late husband, and gratefully returned to Florence two years ago. Fremont County is home to me, and I am invested in its continued growth and vitality.

The Tourism Board's mission to support small businesses and promote tourism is clearly reflected in Florence's thriving antique district. Designated as both the Colorado and United States "Antique Capital," Florence attracts visitors from across the country. As a member of the Blue Spruce Gallery, I frequently meet out-of-town guests who are drawn to our antique shops and art community.

The arts contribute significantly to Florence's local economy. Each year, the Florence Arts Council hosts Paint the Town, an annual art event featuring more than forty artists from throughout Colorado. This event not only enhances the city's cultural offerings but also supports local businesses by bringing visitors who stay in our hotels and dine in our restaurants.

I would be honored to serve on the Fremont County Tourism Board and to contribute to advancing its mission of enhancing the quality of life in our communities through the promotion of tourism, the arts and small business development.

Sincerely,

Barbara Smith
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