

December 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

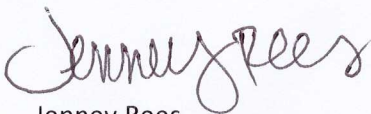
I have had the pleasure of knowing Mark Allen for many years in his capacity as an advocate for Utah's open spaces. The first time I met him was shortly after he formed Protect and Preserve American Fork Canyon. Mark was concerned with plans that were being discussed for private development in the canyon and realized most of the public was unaware these conversations were occurring. He worked to spread the word to raise awareness, quickly gathering over 10,000 followers on Facebook who were also concerned about development in the canyon. Through his efforts, the public had a voice and an opportunity to weigh in on the plans. Because of his work and willingness to lead, private development in the canyon was stopped and developments to enhance public use were put in place.

I was also able to help Mark with recent efforts to protect Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon. Again, Mark served as a watchdog to protect a natural resource. He discovered that private conversations were happening regarding a potential development at Bridal Veil Falls and used his influence and resources to raise awareness so once again citizens would have a voice. It was after many hours of advocating on behalf of citizens that instead of private development at the Falls, a permanent conservation easement was placed on the property.

Mark is a fierce advocate for protecting Utah's precious resources and open spaces. He serves on a committee formed by the Forest Service to address the needs of American Fork Canyon and he continues to use his social media platform to encourage responsible use of our outdoors. Not only does he advocate for protecting open spaces, but he also provides needed education on how to safely recreate in the outdoors and how to leave no trace behind. He often highlights volunteer groups and opportunities to allow citizens to help care for these treasured resources. He knows how to effectively use social media and other communication channels to gather support for important causes. Mark has been an important ally for preserving Utah's canyons.

I believe Mark would be a great resource for any organization who is looking to protect and preserve Utah's natural resources or to be an advocate for transparent government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenney Rees".

Jenney Rees
Mayor, City of Cedar Hills