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Statement of Albin Anderson

Given at public hearing held on the plans of Grand Junction, Colorado developed out of planning funds available under a 201 grant. Hearing was held at the Civic Auditorium of Grand Junction on Wednesday, July 23, 1975 at 7:30 p.m.

My name is Albin Anderson. I live at 3467 F 3/4 Road, Clifton, Colorado, and am an attorney with offices ~~at~~ *in* ~~Grand Junction, Colorado.~~ Grand Junction, Colorado.

I am at this hearing because I share with some others a concern that the City of Grand Junction is slowly extending its control over sewer facilities into the suburban and rural areas surrounding the City; and the area in which I live and which is in need of modern sanitation facilities, may soon fall under the control of the City Council of Grand Junction if the plans under consideration this evening are adopted in their present form.

Preparation for the celebration of the bicentennial of the beginnings of the American Revolution are reminding all of us of some of the values placed upon freedom 200 years ago. The men who took part in the American Revolution and laid foundations for freedom that our country has enjoyed were the most unusual group of wise men gathered at one time in history. The remarks of one them, James Madison, are worth repeating tonight:

"There are more Instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent Encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.

There are reports that the City of Grand Junction will have a controlling or dominant role in the location, construction, operation, maintenance and rate setting for all waste treatment facilities serving the Grand Valley from 33 1/2 Road at Clifton Sanitation District No. 2 down the river to and including 21 1/2 Road. Sooner or later, when the Mt. Garfield Sanitation District is formed, my district will also have to apply to Grand Junction for access to the waste treatment plants under its control. The terms and conditions of access to the plants and the rates to be paid

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will be determined by the City of Grand Junction. When we talk of the City of Grand Junction in those matters, we refer, obviously, to the Grand Junction City Council. If this arrangement comes to pass, then the statute authorizing the City of Grand Junction to proceed in this manner also makes the City Council the final arbiter of the rates to be charged leaving the consumer no relief through the courts.

If this arrangement comes to pass, then my family will be in the position of being taxed for our sewers without representation since we will have no vote in the selection of the members of the Grand Junction City Council. One has only to state these facts to realize that we are back where we were 200 years ago when on April 19, 1775, the farmers at Lexington and Concord fired the first shots in a revolution caused by taxation on tea and other commodities used by the colonists, fixed by a British parliament, none of whose members were chosen by vote of any of the citizens in the colonies.

We people living outside of the incorporated cities expect our representatives, the County Commissioners, to administer the affairs of the County including action on their part to exercise their authority under the law to help provide sewer facilities for us without having us dependent upon any city for those services.

We hope that metropolitan districts may be set up to provide for the construction, management and operation of treatment plants serving the valley from Palisade down past Fruita, with representation on the board afforded to each of the participating municipalities or sanitation districts. The County Commissioners should have an important voice in reaching this solution.

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